

Security Council meets today

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council will resume debate Wednesday on the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories, Arab League spokesman Clovis Maklouf said Tuesday. He was speaking at a meeting after a meeting between Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and members of an Arab ministerial committee on the occupied territories, headed by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. Other members of the ministerial delegation that saw Perez de Cuellar were Syrian Arab League Minister of State Ibrahim Massoud, Syrian Foreign Minister Fayouq Al Sharaa, Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi, and the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi. Maklouf said he expected Kaddoumi and Ibrahimi to take part in Wednesday's council meeting. The Arab League, based in Khartoum, was later to confer in Washington with Secretary of State George Shultz. Perez de Cuellar issued a statement Tuesday expressing "acute concern about the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and especially the continued killing and wounding of unarmed civilians."

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King Fahd to visit Egypt soon

CAIRO (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will visit Egypt "as soon as possible" for the first trip to Egypt by a Saudi monarch in more than a decade, a senior Saudi official said Tuesday. "King Fahd will seize the first opportunity to coordinate with his brother President (Hosni) Mubarak to pay an official visit to Egypt as soon as possible," Prince Faisal Ibn Fahd, head of the Saudi Youth Organisation, said after talks with Mubarak. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted the prince as saying he handed Mubarak a message from King Fahd on bilateral relations. (Fahd dismisses Israeli threats, page 5)

Israel declares alert in S. Lebanon

RASHAYA (R) — Israeli troops in South Lebanon and their local militia allies were on full alert Tuesday to repulse possible "Land Day" attacks by Lebanese and Palestinian fighters, sources said. They said Israeli troops and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia feared assaults connected with Wednesday's commemoration of the 1976 killing of six Arabs demonstrating against Israeli land seizure. The sources said Israeli tanks and troops patrolled the edges of Israel's self-declared "security zone," and SLA men were deployed in hill-top bunkers. Israeli helicopters patrolled the area, they said.

Special Romanian envoy meets Peres

TEL AVIV (R) — A special adviser to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu held two meetings in Israel this week with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday. The adviser, Ion Staiian, met Peres Monday night and again Tuesday, the spokesman said, but gave no further details. The Romanian embassy in Tel Aviv said Staiian would leave for home later Tuesday.

Meese aides quit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number two official in the Justice Department and the head of the department's criminal division abruptly handed in their resignations Tuesday amid continuing legal problems for their boss, Attorney General Edwin Meese. Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns and Assistant Attorney General William Weld announced in letters to President Ronald Reagan that they were stepping down. Both have been serving in their positions since Oct. 17, 1986.

Britain not to probe Vanunu 'kidnap'

LONDON (AP) — The government said Tuesday there was no evidence to contradict Israel's claim that Mordechai Vanunu left Britain of his own volition before turning up in an Israeli prison on charges of spying for the country's nuclear secrets. Home Secretary Douglas Hurd said the Conservative government would not be investigating the alleged abduction plot. Vanunu's family says the former Israeli nuclear technician was lured to Rome in September 1986 by an American woman named Cindy, then kidnapped by Israeli Mossad agents, who spirited him back to Israel.

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Palestinians defy Israeli siege; 11 injured in clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 11 Palestinian protesters Tuesday in continued anti-occupation demonstrations despite Israel's unprecedented closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for three days.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) reported that 10 demonstrators were shot in clashes in the West Bank village of Zeitra, near Tulkarem, where Palestinians barricaded streets, burned tyres and threw petrol bombs at Israeli cars.

Elsewhere, a 13-year-old Palestinian girl was taken to Rafi-diyeh hospital in Nablus after being wounded by rubber bullets, the PPS said.

New Israeli restrictions prevent the media from entering the occupied territories. Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron said the most severe clampdown in nearly four months of Palestinian

uprising could remain in force beyond Friday. Shomron said it was too early to tell whether the measures, which also banned Palestinians from leaving the occupied territories and clamped a non-stop three-day curfew on the entire Gaza Strip, were working.

The army severed telephone links to the Gaza Strip, and opened fire on curfew violators and barred some foreign relief workers from the West Bank.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Shomron threatened a long-term closure of the territories.

"For now, the decision to close the areas is for three days,"

Rabin told Israel Radio. "But I've always said we have to adjust our measures to confront every eventuality."

The Gaza Strip was singled out for particularly harsh restrictions, in part because the uprising began there Dec. 9 and also because it is easier to cut off the 10-kilometre-long strip.

"No human beings are on the streets. It's like a cemetery. The army announced over loudspeakers 'anyone who leaves their home will be shot,'" deposed Mayor Rashad Al Shawas told the AP.

He said he saw soldiers fire on a handful of Palestinians who left their homes in his neighbourhood in defiance of the curfew. Shawas said the telephone call from the AP was the first he had received in 26 hours. Most telephone lines to Gaza remained cut Tuesday night.

Clashes also broke out in the Dheishe and Al Amari refugee

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan assails Israeli blockade

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Jordan Tuesday assailed Israel's clampdown in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and a prominent Palestinian figure said the Zionist state's move to seal off the occupied territories was an Israeli effort to isolate Palestinians from the world.

"Israel and, especially, its military organisations are no longer able to confront the uprising," occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Daud said, referring to Israel's failing efforts to quell the nearly four-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Daud said Israel was not willing to take "a logical decision to end its occupation and recognise the legitimate rights of Palestinians" to reach a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Therefore, it is seeking measures to challenge the people's will and reveal its real intentions of rejecting a just and peaceful settlement," Daud added.

The Israeli occupation authorities sealed off the entire West Bank and Gaza for three days in what was described as a move to forestall any major Palestinian demonstrations to commemorate Land Day.

Eliya Khoury, the bishop of the Anglican church in Amman and a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, denounced the Israeli action and said it was "a low plot aiming to isolate Palestinians from the outside world."

He said that this action would not "prevent any Palestinian from demonstrating, neither it will contain the uprising, but will further inflame it."

He added: "The Israelis plan to storm into (Palestinian) houses and arrest as many people as they can freely, since there won't be any media coverage." Agencies add: The Israeli blockade of the occupied territories was also condemned by Egypt, and France and the United States said they regretted the Zionist state's action.

Egypt said the Israeli blockade obstructs U.S.-led Middle East peace efforts and threatens further escalation in the region.

In a statement to reporters, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid called on Israel to "abandon its policy of force, confrontation and violence" against the 1.5 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Egypt condemns the Israeli measures closing the occupied Arab lands for three days on the pretext of guarding against Palestinian reaction on Land Day," Abdul Meguid said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with a U.N. fact-finding mission Tuesday (Petra photo)

Crown Prince urges speedy international efforts to settle Middle East problems

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday urged the international community to help find speedy and durable solutions for problems plaguing the Middle East region and called on the United Nations and other international organisations to double their efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Gulf war, the Afghan problem and the Lebanese strife.

Prince Hassan, at a meeting with a 10-member U.N.-fact finding mission now on a tour of the Middle East region, made a general review of these issues and focused on the Middle East problem which, he said, should be solved through an international

conference. "We are witnessing a flurry of international activity designed to break the Middle East deadlock," the Crown Prince said. "The U.S. administration, which has realised the importance of maintaining contacts with parties concerned with the Palestine question, has embarked on contacts and dialogues with different sides with a view to ensuring success for its latest peace proposals."

He said Israel's continued rejection of peace bids "is bound to increase tension in the region and reduce chances for peace, which can be achieved only when the Israeli forces have been withdrawn from all occu-

ried Arab territories and when the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, have been guaranteed."

Referring to the situation in the occupied territories, the Crown Prince said the Arab people under Israeli rule were continually suffering from Israeli practices and Jordan was continuing its assistance to the Arab people to enhance their steadfastness.

Prince Hassan told the mission members that His Majesty King Hussein was pursuing worldwide efforts to achieve peace and continuing endeavours to rally Arab support for the Palestinian people and their uprising.

Iraq threatens retaliatory chemical weapon attacks on Iranian towns

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq, accusing Iran of using poison gas in its latest Gulf war offensive, threatened Tuesday to attack Iranian cities with chemical weapons as Iraqi forces and Iranian Revolutionary Guards remained locked in fierce battles in Kurdistan.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi warplanes hit two ships off Iran's Gulf coast during the night as the so-called "tanker war" flared. But there was no independent confirmation. Iraqi-backed Iranian rebels, including units of women fighters going into combat for the first time, appeared to have pushed into southwest Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province around the town of Fakhk Tuesday.

There was no independent confirmation of the reported push by the National Liberation Army (NLA) of Iran. But Tehran, which claimed Monday the rebel offensive was repulsed, said its warplanes bombed "enemy forces" in the Fakhk region several kilometres inside Khuzestan Tuesday.

That indicated that the battle with the tank-led NLA rebels was still going on.

The NLA said Monday that 15 rebel brigades, an estimated several thousand fighters, pushed into Khuzestan in their biggest offensive against Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's regime.

Nuri Nayef, director of INA's Cairo office, said in the Egyptian capital an Iraqi government spokesman told him that "Iraq might choose a number of large Iranian cities to be the targets of chemical weapons as a deterrent and punitive measure."

Both sides in the 7½-year-old Gulf war have been hammering each other's cities with missiles, air raids and artillery for a month, causing hundreds of civilian casualties. Iraq said Iran shelled 10 border towns Monday, killing civilians.

IRNA quoted Iran's parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, as saying his country was now producing its own missiles and shortly would be able to lob up to 20 a day on Iraqi cities.

Nayef told reporters that the spokesman said that Iran deployed chemical weapons in Kurdistan last week and Iraq may respond to stop it from repeating such attacks.

Iraq had blamed Iraq for the chemical bomb attacks on the Kurdish towns of Halabja, Dohaja and Khormal March 16-17.

Tehran claimed 5,000 people were killed and another 5,000 injured when Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on the towns.

Baghdad has neither confirmed nor denied it has used chemical weapons.

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council said Saturday that it has the right to defend itself "with all available

weapons." Commenting on growing international criticism of Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons, Baghdad's Al Thawra daily, organ of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, noted angrily that Iraq could not be expected to "welcome the invaders with flowers."

In New York, Iraq criticised a U.N. decision to send two experts to Iran to investigate the reported chemical bombings in Kurdistan and urged the United Nations to send another team to check murder and torture of Iraqi prisoners of war by Iran.

IRNA said Iranian fighter-bombers were in action again Tuesday supporting Revolutionary Guards Tehran claims have pushed about 25 kilometres into the Darbandikhan region.

Iraq has admitted losing territory in Kurdistan, but given no details.

In Khuzestan, the NLA said its forces had attacked on a 30-kilometre front and had mauled Iran's 77th Korassan Division, driving it out of positions along the border with heavy casualties.

IRNA said the assault was carried out by Iraqi troops and "counter-revolutionaries."

Soviet commander warns of accidental collisions in Gulf

KUWAIT (AP) — The Soviet naval commander in the Gulf warned in an interview published Tuesday of "collisions by mistake" between foreign fleets in the region and suggested the United States reduce the size of its Middle East task force.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Anbaa, General Valery Sergiev said: "We believe that this intensive naval presence is a source of great danger, because it creates a state of tension which could lead to a collision by mistake at any time."

He insisted the Soviets had only four units, including two mine sweepers, in the Gulf. Other reports have said they have up to 10 vessels in the waterway and nearby, including two destroyers.

He suggested the United States reduce its 16-unit force to four or five to avoid an accidental confrontation.

"We are in the Gulf for a limited period of time to provide protection for our tankers," he said.

"We respect international law and refrain from entering territorial waters of Gulf states," Sergiev said.

It was the first time that the commander of the Soviet naval contingent in the Gulf has been identified.

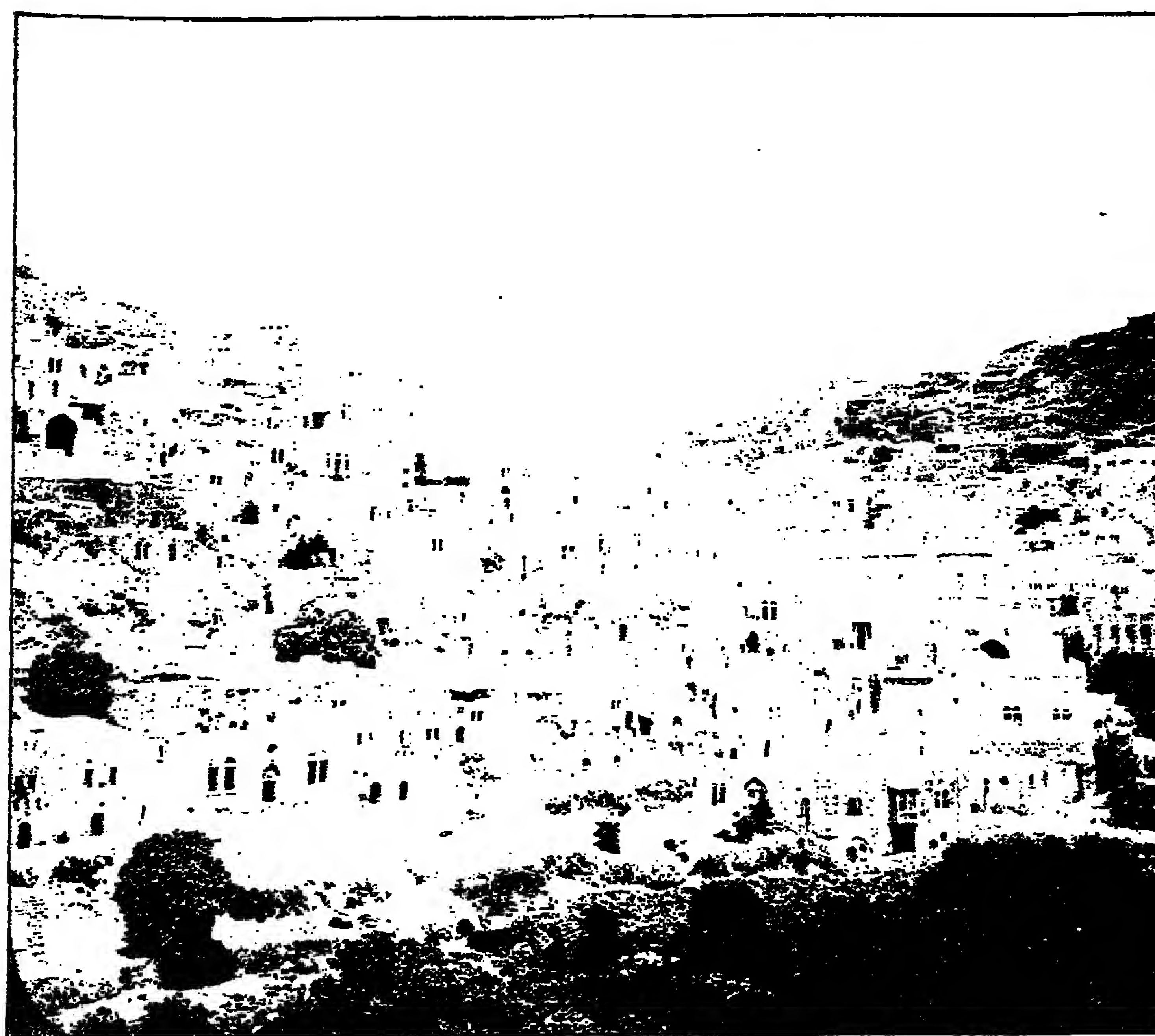
Sergiev described the situation in the Gulf as "extremely difficult and tense." He also said he was optimistic about a quick end to the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Sergiev said that his units would react "vigorously" against any Iranian attack on Soviet units in the Gulf. "However, we do not think there is anybody who is willing to be involved with us because we do not threaten anyone."

He said movement of his warships "is confined to the Gulf international waters," and that these units "do not approach territorial waters or coasts."

Sergiev said his units depend on a Soviet ship anchored in the "northern depths" for fuel and supplies. It was not clear if that meant the northern Gulf or northern parts of the Gulf of Oman, outside the Strait of Hormuz.

"Sometimes we get our needs from ports of states with which we maintain relations," he said without being specific.



(Above) photo of Salt in 1907 by David Gordon Lyon (Courtesy Harvard Semitic Museum), and (below) the Abu Jaber house in Salt, still well preserved and inhabited today.



A short history of Jordan - II

From Ottoman corruption to bedouin hostility

By Dr. Raouf Sa'd Abujaber

The following is the second of three articles summarising Jordan's history in the 19th century. The writer, a leading Jordanian businessman, is a researcher in contemporary history. He recently obtained his doctorate degree in history from St. Anthony's College at Oxford.

INSTABILITY during the first years of the 19th century was not only due to local factors. In 1224 H/1809 A.D. the Wahhabi thrust northwards was acquiring bigger dimensions. 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibn Muhammad, the Saudi prince who had already occupied Hijaz and its holy places, led his tribesmen with the declared intention of conquering firstly the Wilaya of Damascus and later the whole of Bilad al-Sham. When the news reached Damascus that Ibn Sa'ud was already near al-Muzayyib in the Hawran, the Wali, Yusuf Kanj Pasha, gathered whatever forces he could and went out to meet the invaders. Simultaneously he called for assistance from Sulayman Pasha al-'Adil (the Just), successor to the Wali of Acre al-Jazzar who had died in 1319 H/1805 A.D. Sulayman responded favourably, moved his forces and issued instructions to all the notables in his domain to meet him with their forces in the environs of Tabariyya, the city on the lake of the same name (Tiberius). Among those who answered the call were the tribesmen of Transjordan including Sa'd al-Qi'dan al-Fayiz, Sheikh of one of the groups of the Bani Sakhr, and Ikhayd, Sheikh of the second faction. They both gathered their horsemen and joined the campaign at Tabariyya. In the meantime, Sultan Mahmud II (1808-1839) had sent a fireman to Sulayman Pasha, ordering him to relieve Yusuf Pasha of his post, confiscate his wealth, and put him to death. Somehow, a certain Sheikh Nimr, of the Bani Sakhr, acquired knowledge of this secret. He galloped at night to al-Muzayyib, informed Yusuf Pasha of the affair and rode back without anybody knowing about his mission. Ibn Sa'ud found it more expedient to withdraw since the element of surprise was no longer on his side and the combined forces he had now to fight were much stronger than he had anticipated. Yusuf Pasha, in turn, withdrew to Damascus, where he was besieged by Sulayman Pasha who was intent on executing the orders of the Sultan. A battle between the forces of the Wilaya of Damascus and the Wilaya of Acre took place just outside Damascus, at the village of Darayya. The Wilaya of Acre was victorious, and Yusuf Pasha immediately fled to Egypt where he was very well received in Cairo by yet a third governor of the troubled Ottoman Empire, Muhammad 'Ali Pasha.

The importance of the role played by the Transjordanian tribes in the political and military events was once more strongly manifested. Their function, as people of the dira between Hawran and northern Hijaz, was to fight back any bedouin incursions into their territory from the south or the east, and at the same time to maintain control of the annual pilgrimage operation and its economic benefits. They would have welcomed more stability in their own domain but the weakness and inconsistency of the central government made this impossible. The administration in Istanbul arranged matters so that governors did not stay long enough in their posts. They were fleeced before they got their appointments and whatever expenses they incurred were mercilessly collected many times over from the already impoverished people in the wilayat (provinces). They were made to fight amongst themselves, which besides draining the resources of the wilayat, brought havoc and destruction to the countryside. The governors themselves played the same game but on the level of the administration in their own governorships. They encouraged faction against faction and in the Transjordanian area they appeased the big tribes, such as the different branches of the 'Anaza, and tightened their hold over the smaller ones. It was the people at large who suffered the consequences of all this. The well-known historian Sati' al-Husni, in the early 20th century described these times thus: "These events were not out of the ordinary in the history of the Ottoman Empire. They were the symptoms and natural outcome of illnesses and diseases that had penetrated the body of the state, causing disintegration in its different structures without sparing a single one."

The Wahhabi threat, which

was averted by the unusually fast reaction of the two governors in Damascus and Acre, however, did not die completely. A year later, Burckhardt confirms a new, but more peaceful, attempt at expansion. 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibn Muhammad Ibn Sa'ud is reported as:

"Sending two Wahhabi tax-gatherers from Madina to al-Karak but they departed without obtaining a single piaster. During their stay, however, tobacco was banished from the guest's room at the Sheikh's house, in conformity with the religious practices of the Wahhabis and the Muslims of Karak showed their adherence to the faith, by going regularly to prayers which few of them were in the habit of doing, the Sheikh excepted."

The Sheikh was Yusuf al-Majali who, together with his descendants and clansmen, played an important role in the political life of the area all through the 19th and 20th centuries.

It has now become possible to draw a picture of general conditions in the early 19th century as they were found by certain famous travellers: The Austrian M. Seetzen, known as Hakim Musa, in the autumn of 1806, the Swiss John Lewis Burckhardt, known as Sheikh Ibrahim, in the summer of 1812, and the Englishman James Buckingham in the winter of 1816. Practically contemporaneous with Buckingham, two commanders in the British Royal Navy, the Honourable Charles Leonard Irby and James Mangles, visited Transjordan and recorded their notes and impressions. The notes of the Finnish traveller George August Wallin, known as Sheikh 'Abd al-Wali, were also referred to, although his visit took place some 30 years later in the spring of 1845. Drawing on the reports these men made during their travels and numerous contacts with the peo-

ple of the area, it is now possible to compile a description of the villages and their population during that era. The numbers continued in the same range of 50,000-60,000 people.

All the travellers realised the difficulties of making such trips in countries that did not have any central government. They were all at the mercy of, and subject to the exactions of, the bedouins. This explains many a time the bitterness in some of their remarks and the warmth with which they mention hospitality for its own sake. They were all impressed by the possibilities of a land that had a very small population and prayed for the peace that would allow it to prosper. Although some of their remarks are personal and prejudiced, the present generation is nevertheless grateful that these records have been written.

Generally, conditions were most unfavourable for the development of agriculture. Almost the entire population, whose livelihood depended on different farming activities, was caught between two evils. On the one hand, they had to live under a weak and corrupt administration, whilst on the other they had to co-exist with a harsh and exploitative bedouin presence. Although both the administration and the bedouins despised farming, they were ready to take advantage of the impoverished people engaged in it. They not only mistreated farmers but were also intent on exploiting them to the last degree. No wonder therefore that villages were very small and only a few families lived in each of them. On the whole, villages were larger and more abundant in the mountainous areas than in the open country, as the mountains afforded better protection against the frequent raids of bedouin horsemen.



The ferry across the Jordan River at the turn of the century, a drawing by L. Skeats.

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PROGRAMME THREE

22:00 Wrestling
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PROGRAMME FOUR

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19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Sports Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Sweet Surrender - The Holders Go to Dinner
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12:55 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
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14:30 The Young Sound
15:00 Concert Hour
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18:05 Science Report
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21:15 Evening Show Contd.
21:30 Evening Show Contd.
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22:15 Evening Show Contd.
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Crown Prince pays tribute to PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday paid tribute to the Public Security Department (PSD) and all members of the security and police forces for their efforts that contributed to the success of the 17th Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers meeting in Amman.

He said thanks to the PSD's contribution, a very comfortable and secure atmosphere has been provided for the delegates, enabling them to fulfill their duty and arrive at a successful outcome.

Prince Hassan was addressing PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and senior PSD officers at the Al Hussein Youth City, conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and appreciation to the police and security officers and said: "Jordan can rightly claim to be an oasis of security and stability, reflecting its positive effect on regional and international meetings in Amman."

The success of the November Arab summit meeting and the numerous conferences and meetings at the regional Arab and international levels held in Amman, depended largely on the positive and secure atmosphere created for the participants and delegates by the Jordanian security system, Prince Hassan said.

Prince Hassan also lauded the PSD's plans for introducing the comprehensive security concept to police work in the Kingdom, and said that such plans are bound to bring about further cooperation between the police and the public, which in turn would enhance security and stability.

In reply the PSD director pledged that the security system will continue to work under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein to offer better service to the nation.

Prince Hassan visits Duleil

Also on Tuesday Prince Hassan urged concerned parties to implement good quality services and developmental projects in the Duleil district and avoid unorganised construction and building operations as much as possible.

Addressing a meeting at Duleil municipality attended by local officials and notables, Prince Hassan said that the five-year

development plan in Jordan is being implemented "mainly to help develop citizens' capabilities, who in turn can develop their country."

In referring to problems of illegal public use of state-owned land in the eastern regions of Mafraq, Prince Hassan urged municipal and local government authorities to set up housing estates in these areas, benefiting the largest sector of the public through a well-defined programme.

He said this step should be taken in order to stem the encroachment on buildings over valuable agricultural land.

Prince Hassan said specialised teams would be making tours of different regions to conduct assessments of steps taken in the implementation of schemes included in the five-year development plan.

Prince Hassan later visited the model school at Duleil which has vocational training workshops and other facilities in addition to classes accommodating 1,500 students for academic courses.

The school which cost JD 2.5 million to build will open its doors for the students on April 16.

Crown Prince inaugurates broiler chicken project

Following his visit to Duleil Prince Hassan visited Azraq where he unveiled a plaque marking the official inauguration of a broiler chicken project.

Later he chaired a meeting for the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Health (ACDAW) and stressed the need for more efforts to help ensure food security for the Arab World, and free the Arab nation from foreign economic domination.

"The Arab information services should be highlighting the dangers of foreign economic domination in a bid to encourage Arab countries to increase their food production and achieve economic integration."

Prince Hassan referred to the failure of pan-Arab companies to compete with foreign products in world markets, and said that once the Arabs begin to give more attention to quality rather than quantity, they can offset these problems and difficulties.

The project is being implemented by the ACDAW which was set up by the Council



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday thanks the Public Security Department (below) the Prince visits municipality of Duleil (Petra photos)



of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

The project, initiated in 1986, is currently producing 415,000 egg-laying hens, six million chickens for meat and seven million table eggs annually.

Once the project goes into full

production a total of 13 million eggs will be hatched annually.

The ACDAW board chairman, who spoke on the occasion, said that the project in Azraq was one of 22 other projects being implemented by ACDAW in Arab countries.

Jordan limits number of Muslim pilgrims to 15,000

AMMAN — Jordan has received no notification from Saudi Arabia for limiting the Kingdom's pilgrims to Mecca this year, nevertheless Jordan has decided to send no more than 15,000 Muslims to perform the annual pilgrimage in the holy places, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Abdul Salam Abbadi was quoted as saying here Tuesday.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily quoted Abbadi as saying that Jordan will send no more than 15,000 Muslims to Mecca in view of the limited area for worshippers performing their rites in the Islamic Holy Land.

Saudi Arabia had earlier announced arrangements for limiting the number of pilgrims coming from Iran in view of last year's bloody disturbances in Mecca which caused the death of 400 people.

The Islamic foreign ministers' meeting in Amman last week supported Saudi Arabia's measures which are intended to safeguard the pilgrimage and the lives of innocent people.

Abbadi said all pilgrims going to Mecca from Jordan and occupied Palestine should not exceed 15,000, and the decision has already been conveyed to Saudi Arabia.

Arrangements are underway in cooperation with transport companies and landlords to transport and put up the pilgrims while in Mecca, Abbadi said.

A team from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will soon go to Mecca and Medina in order to inspect preparations for accommodating the pilgrims, Abbadi noted.

He said the Saudi authorities will assign sufficient land and accommodation only for 15,000 Jordanians during the pilgrimage in view of the huge numbers of Muslims converging on the holy places from different areas of the world.

The Ministry of Awqaf which is charged with organising matters for the pilgrims will this year hire 200 air-conditioned buses to transport the pilgrims to and from the holy places, Abbadi said.

Last year, there was considerable confusion when it was discovered that 18,500 Jordanian pilgrims were in Mecca, for exceeding the accommodation space allowed for Jordan, he said "this situation forced some pilgrims to pay high cost for accommodation elsewhere, several kilometres away from the religious sites."

They had stayed seven days in the holy places in Mecca and Medina and travelled there through Jordanian territory under arrangements made by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the Royal Jordanian.

The leader of the group voiced appreciation to Jordan for extending facilities, assistance and hospitality.

The group who returned to Amman from Mecca on board a Royal Jordanian aircraft Tuesday morning crossed into the occupied territory via the King Hussein Bridge and were seen off by a number of officials.

Their crossing came on the day the bridges were declared closed by the Public Security Department (PSD) for three days.

The PSD said that the King Hussein Bridge and the Prince Mohammad Bridge will be closed as of Tuesday for those coming to the East Bank from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but will allow those travelling from the East to the West Bank only.

Schools to close for spring holiday from April 2-16

AMMAN — Schools around the Kingdom will close for the spring holiday from Saturday April 2, and reopen on Saturday April 16, according to Ministry of Education Director Ahmad Taqi.

His statement appearing in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday put an end to rumours around schools that the Ministry of Education was contemplating shortening the holiday to one week only.

Al Dustour newspaper has meanwhile reported an order from Education Minister Thou-

qan Hindawi that the first period in private and public schools in Jordan on Wednesday should be devoted to discussing the meaning of Land Day, an annual tradition observed in commemoration of Arab martyrs that fell at the hands of Israeli forces driving them out of their land.

The minister asked that teachers and educators to explain to the students the implications of the event and the need for solidarity with the Palestinian people resisting Israeli occupation.

Man strangles sister

AMMAN — A 27-year-old man identified only as N.M. Kh killed his 23-year-old sister by strangling her with a towel.

The murder, according to Al Dustour newspaper, occurred at their home in Khirfan Street on Jabal Amman. The man was apprehended and the police were holding an investigation.

Al Ra'i newspaper reported the death of a 30-year-old Egyptian worker after falling from a crane at the building site of the new Tafleh Hospital.

According to the paper a group

of Civil Defence Department officers rescued a boy named Mahmoud Hawamdeh who fell in Jerash stream.

The paper said that the boy's heart had stopped for a minute and a half but rapid first aid and operations saved his life.

The boy was recuperating at the Jerash Government Hospital. In Tafleh an 80-year-old woman died and two children aged 12 and 10 were admitted to hospital suffering from suffocation after sleeping in a closed room with the kerosene heater on.

Jordan marks Land Day today

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday observes the Land Day anniversary, which commemorates the death of six Palestinian Arabs in an anti-Israeli protest held in 1976, and supports the steadfast people struggling for freedom.

On the occasion, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin issued the following statements:

Land Day marks the uprising of the Palestinian people in 1976, in the form of a general strike followed by huge demonstrations in all towns and cities and villages in Palestinian territories occupied since 1948.

The protest was against Israel's arbitrary measures, seizure of Arab territories, and its practices against the Palestinian people.

The direct cause for the 1976 event was Israel's confiscation of 21,000 dunums of Arab lands in central Galilee region of Palestine belonging to the villages of Arrabeh, Saknin, Deir Hanna and Arab Al Sawad, to be used for building Jewish settlements.

Although the local Arab population had informed the authorities that their strike will be peaceful and within democratic norms, the demonstrators were confronted by Israeli attacks that caused the death of six innocent Arabs.

The Palestinian-Zionist struggle is over the land, and the Palestinian people's steadfastness, their adherence to their rights and their land were instrumental in aborting Israeli plans and conspiracies.

In addition the continual growth of Arab population in occupied Palestine has formed a major obstacle in the path of Israel's plans.

The Land Day events in 1976 served as one more link in a long chain of Palestinian struggle and

had no doubt shaken the Israeli colonial society very strongly.

The Land Day anniversary this year is observed against a background of continued Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with more martyrs falling and joining their brothers and sisters who fell in defence of their land.

Jordan, which shares the Palestinian people's sufferings day by day, salutes the steadfastness of its kinsmen in the occupied territories and renews its support and backing for their honourable struggle on their own national soil.

We in Jordan appeal to all peace-loving nations and world organisations, to take all possible measures and actions to end the sufferings of the Palestinian people, and provide them with the means of attaining their national rights.

On the eve of the Land Day anniversary the Amman based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) issued a statement saluting the Palestinian people and

supporting their struggle.

A CAEU statement strongly attacked Israel's racist and arbitrary policies against the Palestinians and urged all countries to extend assistance to the oppressed people of Palestine.

The statement also referred to a number of measures taken by the CAEU in support of the Palestinians.

These include facilities to be given by all Arab countries for marketing products from the occupied Palestinian land.

Fayez hails Palestinians

Also on Tuesday Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez hailed the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and praised their steadfastness and their heroic struggle against the Israeli occupation authorities, "who are practising the ugliest forms of oppression against our kinsmen in the occupied territories."

Fayez stressed the Jordanian people's support for them in these critical circumstances.

Muslim, Christian leaders support uprising

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Imposing sanctions against the United States, completely boycotting American goods, and not allowing people such as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and other Americans to enter any Arab country, were some of the suggestions made Tuesday by some prominent Muslim and Christian figures.

"We must remember that the United States is our enemy before Israel and we must take all forms of action against it, if we are to pressure them to stop supporting Israel with everything," declared Bishop Elias Khoury, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee.

Speaking at a Muslim-Christian meeting, held at the General Islamic Congress for Bait Ul Magdis, commemorating Land Day, Bishop Khoury said that because American Secretary of State George Shultz has for the first time met with members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), (Palestinian-Americans Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughud), it does not mean that the United States has changed its position towards the Palestine question.

"I am not hopeful at all with Shultz's visit and his Middle East mission. We must remember that his term in the White House is almost over and he has to get on the good side of Arabs because of his personal business with Bechtel," Bishop Khoury analysed.

The bishop said that the Arabs — governments and people alike — should fully support the Palestinians who are resisting the occupation because it is a religious, nationalistic, patriotic and Arab duty.

"It is our duty to support those who are resisting to liberate all of Palestine because protecting the rights of the Palestinians on their land means protecting the rest of the Arab countries," Khoury said, adding that if Palestine is removed from the map, then eventually the rest of the Arab World will also disappear from the map.

Bishop Khoury continued to say that there has been much said and written about the uprising in the rest of the Arab World, "but we must do something active that will actually support the uprising," he said, adding that one stone thrown in the face of Zionists in worth ten articles written about the revolt. When asked what measures he expected people outside the occupied territories to take in supporting the uprising, he declined to elaborate.

Bishop Khoury was speaking at the Muslim-Christian meeting held to decide what action to take in support of the current Palestinian uprising on the occasion of the Land Day.

Member of Parliament and member of the Muslim-Christian Committee, Fouad Farraj disagreed with Bishop Khoury that writing is not important, stressing the importance of the press in the coverage of the uprising.

He suggested that in telegrams and letters sent to different organisations around the world, they should ask them to pressure Israeli authorities into lifting the ban on journalists to enter the territories, "which Kissinger suggested as a form of suppressing the uprising."

Another member of the Muslim-Christian Committee Zaki Al Ghoul, a businessman, suggested that when messages are sent to international organisations for supporting the rights of the Palestinian people, they should be signed as messages from Arabs, not as Muslims and Christians, "because there is no difference between a Muslim and a Christian; we are all Arabs."

Kamel Al Sharif, president of the Executive Committee for the General Islamic Congress for Bait Ul-Magdis, expressed his pleasure for attending the meeting which he said "indicates the unity of the Arab people and its cooperation to achieve peace and basic human rights." He added that it also indicates "the Arab people's adherence to the principles of both religious Islam and Christianity."

Sharif also pointed out to the freedom which both religions enjoy in Jordan.

He stressed the importance of the Land Day at this time of escalating "clashes between the Islamic-Arab people against Zionist oppression since it is not the first such occurrence, nor will it be the last," he said.

Dr. Carlos Dihmis, a member

of Parliament, called for "concentration on unity from all its sides," and called on the meeting to issue a statement to be distributed to all international organisations.

Rauf Abu Jaber, a leading businessman, called for holding "more such meetings, since they indicate that the Arab people are united... in the same trenches with the same destiny."

Hassan Al Tal, a journalist, said this meeting "indicates the pleasure of the peoples of faith, especially as they are the sons of one land with a similar education." Tal pointed out that "all attempts at colonising the area have failed to rip the unity of the Arab people."

Dr. Muhammad Sager, president of the Islamic University in Gaza, called on all Arab nations support with the Palestinian people, against all sides supporting the Israeli regime and "call the attention of the world to the danger of the situation in the occupied territories."

Sheikh Mutlaq Al Muhtassib, a clergyman, pointed out the "situation in occupied Arab territories, stressing the need for total financial, moral and publicity support, especially now, after the areas have been cut off from the press."

At the end of their meeting, participants adopted several resolutions praising the uprising and calling for its continuity. The participants called upon all international organisations to condemn Israeli practices against the Palestinian people.



Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Tuesday delivers a lecture on health care in Aqaba (Petra photo)

Hamzeh: Jordan still lacks sufficient nurses

AQABA — Jordan still lacks sufficient number of nurses and midwives to work in health centres spread across the country, and although more and more females are applying to nursing schools, the Health Ministry for the time being continues to make up for the shortage by employing foreign nurses, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said in a lecture delivered in Aqaba.

The minister said that the Ministry of Health has concluded contracts with nurses from China and will shortly draw up contracts for bringing in nurses from Poland specialising in the treatment of mental patients.

But the ministry is currently

building an institute for training instructors in nursing, a project which would help to provide sufficient number of nurses in all fields, the minister said.

The Health Ministry, Hamzeh added, is giving more and more attention to centres providing primary health services because, experiments proved that they deal with nearly 95 per cent of the cases, and refer only five per cent of their patients to hospitals for further treatment.

The ministry has established 15 health departments around the country, and plans to create 93 more primary health care centres to further expand the basic services to all regions in the King-

dom, Hamzeh noted.

He said most cases are being treated in Jordan and only on very rare occasions does the ministry refer patients for treatment abroad.

Only JD 129,000 were last year spent on health and medical services offered to Jordanian people abroad, and this is because Jordanian hospitals and health centres have sufficient specialists to deal with most cases, Hamzeh added.

Hamzeh spoke about plans for setting up a mental health hospital in Irbid, building a government hospital in Karak and a new one in Tafleh.

He also spoke about his ministry's measures to appoint new

doctors and said over the past three years the Health Ministry created and offered jobs to doctors, three times the number created over the past 35 years.

The Health Ministry succeeded in finding jobs for 160 doctors in Libya and 300 more will be appointed in North Yemen in accordance with Jordan's agreements with the two countries, Hamzeh noted.

He said that the Health Ministry started, as of the beginning of 1988, to issue school-children medical eye glasses free of charge, and has embarked on measures for establishing a centre for the treatment of the hearing-impaired.

320,000 phone lines to be added in coming 5 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications will soon embark on implementing several major projects included in its five-year development scheme.

These projects, to be carried out in stages, aim at expanding the present telephone system in various parts of the Kingdom by introducing an additional 320,000 telephone lines. Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan said.

The minister said that one of

the main schemes involves laying down distribution networks and linking subscribers' homes with the main network. Another scheme entails carrying out civil works for laying cables, and procuring materials.

Later, two other projects will be carried out. "One of these involves the installation of electronic telephone exchange units, and the other involves installing works needed for the radio-telephony system," the minister said.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called at the house of Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayez and condoled him over the death of the late Mansour Mithqal Al Fayez last week.

PRINCE VISITS DIVISION: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visited the Fifth Royal Mechanised Division, where he was briefed by the division commander on the military exercises performed by one of the formations, and inspected progress of work in the fields of administration and training. The Crown Prince then visited one of the division's formations where he attended a meeting, along with a number of senior army officers.

TIES WITH U.K.: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Tuesday held talks with British ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve, scopes of bilateral cooperation in the various fields.

SOCIAL POLICIES: Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Al Sugour Tuesday discussed with a visiting British expert on social policies and explored areas of cooperation in studies on poverty.

EDUCATION: Mu'ta University Tuesday organised a one-day educational symposium on educational management and supervision for a number of education officials in Karak governorate.

VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES: General Union of Voluntary Societies Secretary General Tuesday discussed with chairman of the Voluntary Societies in Ma'an Governorate, the GUVS projects in the governorate, the need for establishing day care centres for the mentally retarded and prospects for setting up two pilot projects on integrated social development.

RAMTHA PROJECTS: The Ramtha mayor discussed with a delegation from the Cities and Villages Development Bank a number of issues relevant to the municipality projects and the possibility of obtaining loans from the bank to finance such projects.

SAUDI OFFICIAL: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Finance Under Secretary Suleiman Al Mandil is due here Wednesday on an official visit to Jordan for talks on bilateral cooperation in economic and financial affairs. Mandil will also lead his country's side to the Joint Jordanian-Saudi Company for Investments meetings which will start Thursday.

COUNCILMEMBERS RESIGN: Six members of the Marj Al Hamam Municipal Council have tendered their resignations blaming unmountable difficulties that after nine months from being elected as council members they felt they were unable to offer any meaningful service to the local community. The resignations were submitted to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber.

NABULSI: Secretary General of the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi, formerly Central Bank of Jordan Governor, has been named special advisor to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), according to a decision, by AMF, which will take effect in mid July.

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A reminder to the world

TODAY marks the Land Day when all Palestinians and the entire Arab people commemorate this national Palestinian day with ever more determination and vigour. This solemn and inspiring occasion, which the Palestinian people started to observe in 1976 to signal their collective and unequivocal rejection of Israeli confiscation of their lands, has acquired added meanings throughout the years of Palestinian struggle for freedom and liberation.

Land, this occasion symbolises for the Palestinian people and the rest of the Arab World, is the truest and purest cornerstone of nationhood and for it no amount of sacrifice is too much and no effort or struggle no matter how painful are enough. For when the Palestinian's attachment and dedication to their collective lands was awakened and rekindled, their path towards liberation acquired a firmer foundation which no force can threaten and frustrate.

Seen from this vantage, Israeli policy-makers have attempted in vain to float the so-called "functional" solution for the West Bank and Gaza in a desperate effort to separate the people from their lands and homeland. This organic link between the Palestinian people and their lands has been proven time and again to be unbreakable. In this sense and in this context, today marks yet another reminder and warning to Israeli policy-makers that the Palestinian people will never yield their lands in Israel and that any settlement which purports to bestow Israeli sovereignty over their lands will come to naught and will be fought tooth and nail come what may.

Today could explain why Israel seeks to undermine the inner sanctum of Land Day. Panic, fear and anxiety of unprecedented scale have gripped the Israelis. How else can one interpret Israel's decision to seal off the West Bank and Gaza from the rest of the world especially from the Palestinians of Israel and the watchful eye of the international media. Clearly Israel fears the solidarity and unity that was irrevocably forged between the Palestinians in Israel with their brothers and sisters across the "green line" in the West Bank and Gaza. Such Israeli fears and nightmares illustrate the extent and dimension of this important day. The whole Israeli establishment has been mobilised for this occasion and has gone into full gear to silence the people and isolate them from the international community. But this day's everlasting message will never be silenced because the spirit that moves and animates it is well enshrined and deeply carved in the souls, hearts and minds of the Palestinian people.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shamir rejects peace

AT A Knesset session held Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced once again his government's rejection of any peace bids that are not compatible with the Camp David accords. In an address to Knesset members, Shamir said his government will continue to suppress the Palestinian uprising with all means available to it. With this declaration, Shamir has thus put an end to any attempts for a renewed American peace initiative in the Middle East. Soberly as he is known to be demanding direct negotiations and partial solutions rather than a total settlement. Those who heard Shamir's speech may have noticed the obvious arrogance and the lack of respect in the man who, though in the post of a prime minister, is determined to act and to behave and think like a leader of a terrorist gang bent on killing and destruction. Shamir's speech was full of threats to the Arab people under Israeli rule who are carrying on the uprising against Israel's existence in the occupied Arab lands. Shamir seems to be deeply shaken by the uprising which has opened deep wounds within the Israeli society, and brought about renewed doubts within his coalition government. Shamir said in his speech that the U.S. backed his government's policies, a strange development which prompts us to ask about the real usefulness of Shultz's renewed efforts in our region. There can be no benefit from any U.S. support if Washington continues to support Israel's occupation of Arab land.

Al Dustour: Shamir's message to Shultz

ONLY one week before U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's scheduled return to the Middle East area, the American peace proposals are dealt a severe blow by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at a special meeting of the Knesset. Shamir announced his rejection of the international Middle East peace conference which is one of the important elements in Shultz's proposals. Shamir urged the Israeli people to unify their ranks and take a strong resolute stand with regard to the new U.S. proposals. This attitude came as no surprise to anyone in the Arab World, specially in the light of the outcome of Shamir's latest visit to the United States and his talks with American government leaders. We believe that Shamir has now thrown the ball once again into the American court, and is waiting a response from George Shultz who is visiting the Middle East soon to try his hand again with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Shultz had earlier announced that he does not intend to introduce any amendments to his proposals, nor does Washington intend to give up its new endeavour. Therefore, the new confrontation puts America's credibility once again to the test. Perhaps this is an important move by the Reagan administration, since it could well be the last U.S. diplomatic initiative under President Reagan.

Sawt Al Shaab: Confrontation escalates

ON the eve of Land Day the Israeli authorities have escalated their anti-Arab measures and intensified their brutal actions against the Arab population for fear that the Arabs would step up their uprising on Wednesday, the Land Day anniversary. The Israelis are closing the whole of the occupied Arab territories and imposing curfews on the local population preventing them from carrying out their daily business and depriving women and children from basic requirements, in defiance of the world public opinion and international laws. Reports from the West Bank say that 50 South African experts in squashing disturbances and fighting resistance have arrived to help the Israelis in stifling the Arab resistance and subduing their will. The Israelis will no doubt continue to escalate their brutal actions against the freedom fighters trying to subdue them and break their will and love for freedom, but they will not be confronted by stepped up resistance and uprising, and anti-Israeli protests. The Israelis are closing their ears to the fact that no force can end the uprising and no power can discourage the Palestinians from pursuing their aspired goals.

How stones can beat guns

By Frank Collins

THE war in the occupied territories is in its fourth month. The official toll of Palestinians killed by shooting is now more than 80, and more than 100 if the deaths from beatings and tear gas exposures are added. Not a single Israeli soldier has been killed in the many encounters with protesting Palestinians. The occupation army command is rubbing its eyes in disbelief. How can the Palestinians, relying on stone age weaponry, withstand a military technology among the best that the world has to offer?

Perhaps the stand-off is not so astonishing. The Palestinians have many of the same advantages as those in the Third World had in their uprisings against European imperialism after the second world war. As the Europeans found, industrial age military technology is basically ineffective against the determined opposition of a people fighting in its own country.

'The occupation command is rubbing its eyes in disbelief.'

The Palestinians have additional advantages because of the nature of their resistance. This is not a guerrilla war fought by a relatively small number of commandos but it is a war being carried on by the whole population, both men and women, young and old. Against these numbers, the fully mobilised Israeli army is spread too thinly to put out the fire that has been ignited throughout the territories after 20 years of repression.

While the Palestinian losses of more than 100 dead, and thousands wounded and arrested are large, they are proportionately small when compared to the total number of Palestinian combatants — essentially the whole population. The dead are buried as heroes in mass funerals, if not prevented by the Israelis, and the wounds of the injured are bound with the open pride of the community.

The medical staff in hospitals and clinics are often working around the clock, in stark contrast to the Israeli doctors across the Green Line, many of whom are on strike over matters of pay.

The morale of the Palestinians is magnificent. Men and women here, who face imminent arrest, beatings and torture, show no fear but calm, good spirits, seemingly buoyed up by the fact that, at long last, they are taking on their oppressors. In contrast, the Israeli soldiers, relying on their weaponry, are timorous and confused when confronted by masses of yelling and stone-throwing Palestinians.

The occupied territories, particularly the mountainous stretches of the West Bank, are strange to the Israeli soldiers even though their own homes are just miles away. To the villagers and camp dwellers, the areas that they are defending are as familiar as the backs of their own hands. Every wadi and rock has been the place of their childhood games and this familiarity provides a morale-building battlefield. Their comrades at the barricades are like-wise neighbours whom they have known since childhood. The soldiers, on the other hand, often have to operate together after only a few months of acquaintance.

The Israeli soldiers are burdened under the weight of equipment of the modern foot soldier. In East Jerusalem, where they are deployed to augment the police and border guards, they look like men from Mars with heavy padded uniforms hung with impedimenta, and nowadays with a club. The Palestinians, on the other hand, are burdened with nothing. Their stone age weaponry lies at hand for use as missiles and the building of barricades. Knowing well their surroundings, they surge forward or tactically retreat from the relatively immobile soldiers. Should the lines of defence around a village crumble, as often happens, the soldiers move in to beat or arrest those

they can grab, but there are never enough to enable them to arrest everyone, and the village survives to fight again another day.

Under existing conditions, Israeli lines of communication both with the collaborators in the villages and camps and with communication centres outside are becoming increasingly difficult. Many opportunistic collaborators are finding it advisable to switch sides. The villages and camps do not depend on electronic communications but on the ancient tried-and-true method of runners between villages who can rarely be intercepted. Thus it is the Israelis and not the villagers who are having serious difficulties of knowing what is going on in a given village or camp.

There are increasing signs of collaboration between the army and militant settlers. The settlers have for a long time taken the initiative in attacks on villages and refugee camps. Previously, the army has moved into support

The settlers have certain advantages over army personnel.

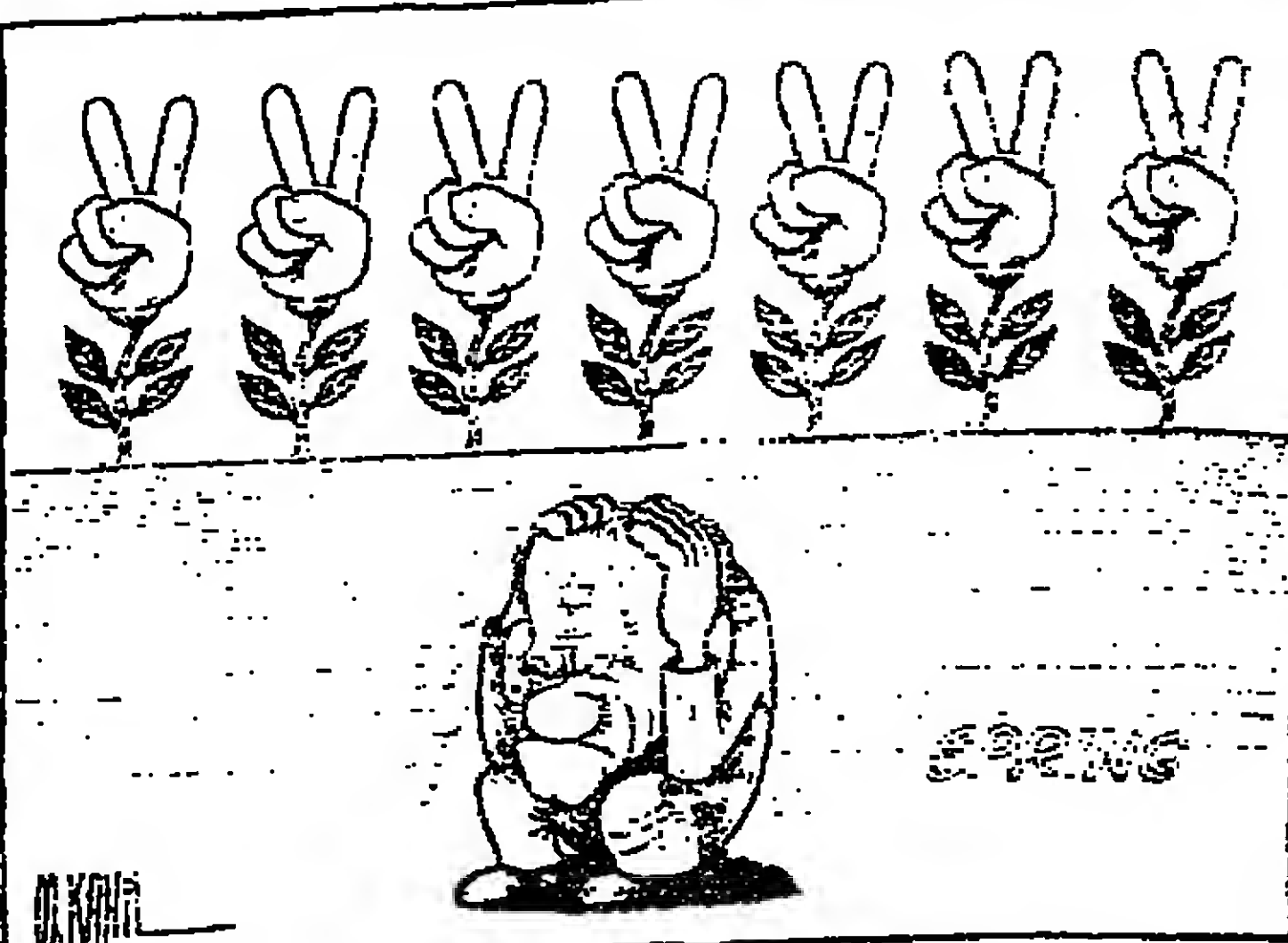
of the settlers, often hours after the initial attack; now the soldiers arrive with the settlers. The settlers have certain advantages over army personnel. Their morale is high, inflated as it often is by hatred of all Palestinians. Also they usually know the terrain better than the soldiers. While the villagers and camp dwellers have developed a certain contempt for the soldiers, they do fear the settlers. Most villages are now fully organised for defence against settler attacks and are constantly on the alert. But still the settlers represent a serious challenge to the uprising. The Israeli government is able to shrug off responsibility for actions of the settlers which violate international conventions on the grounds that they are unauthorised.

Conditions under which the uprising is being carried on are quite

different in the Gaza Strip from those in the West Bank. The Gaza Strip is an area of concentrated population and level ground, its population lives largely in refugee camps which are easily cordoned off by the occupation troops. The food supply comes almost completely from Israel and can be blocked. This technique, including shutting of water and electricity, has been used intermittently since early January. Gaza is also visited less often by the press and television so that its story is more difficult to carry to the outside world. However, in spite of these difficulties, the Gazans, who initiated the uprising, are continuing to resist the occupation with vigour and determination.

The Palestinian uprising is a disaster for Israel. Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi announced in mid-February that attempts to put it down had cost 500 million Israeli shekels' (\$320m). This is matched by an at least equal amount in business losses, and these are continuing. The uprising has necessitated a full call-up of the army and its reserve personnel. This has led to the absence of large numbers of the Israeli labour force, including key personnel, causing widespread decreases in industrial production. In addition, an estimated 40 per cent decline in the number of Palestinian labourers commuting to Israel is a terrible blow to the Israeli economy. Israeli officials are talking about importing foreign labourers to make up the deficiency.

The Israeli economy has always been precarious and is sustained only by heavy inputs of U.S. funds which amount to roughly \$1,000 per head. The huge expenditures needed to counter the uprising will soon require additional U.S. contributions to prevent an economic collapse. How Israeli pleas for more money will be received by the American people in the face of the erosion of Israel's image remains to be seen — Middle East International, London.



OPEN FORUM

Beware of massacres

THE latest Israeli move to seal off the occupied West Bank and Gaza is ostensibly aimed at forestalling violent "Land Day" demonstrations today, but no-one can mistake the sinister motives behind isolating the occupied territories and denying free media access to what is happening there. Quite simply, it enables the occupation army to intensify its brutal campaign against the Palestinians there, without having to worry about journalists and television crew. The planned Land Day demonstrations are being used by Israel as a pretext to use its army and weapons against the Palestinians. This could prove to be a turning point in the 15-week-old Palestinian uprising but definitely not to the advantage of the occupiers who can maim and kill the people but can never squash their nationalist spirit. There is little doubt that Israel hopes to use the total blockade of the West Bank and Gaza to implement its grand design of "crushing" the uprising once and for all and thus to do away with new peace initiatives and proposals that have emerged as a result of the Palestinian revolt.

Israeli contentions that Palestinians plan to use firearms during Land Day demonstrations cannot fool anyone. If Palestinians wanted to kill Israelis, opportunities were abundant and dozens of Israeli soldiers could have been killed one by one during the past 15 weeks in various parts of the West Bank and Gaza. There is no reason now to expect such a radical change in anti-occupation tactics at a time when the entire Israeli army and police force appear to have been mobilised. The fatal shooting of an Israeli soldier in Bethlehem earlier this month could be seen only as an isolated incident. Even at that, there is no concrete evidence that it was an Arab hand that pulled the trigger in Bethlehem.

But the gravest danger that the Israeli blockade of the occupied territories pose to the Arab are possible massacres of Palestinians. It is not inconceivable that the Israeli army would let loose gun-toting settlers in West Bank villages just as it did with Lebanese militiamen in Sabra and Shatila in 1982. Entire villages could cease to exist and the occupation army has the very convenient excuse of pointing to the settlers as the culprits.

Such a scenario indeed is the great danger, since, according to the Israeli thinking, massacres could trigger widespread panic among the Palestinians in the occupied territories and could spark another Palestinian exodus and leave that much less Palestinian protesters to deal with. The very fact that the same terrorists who perpetrated the 1948 Deir Yassin massacre are now in power in Israel is a definite pointer to such an eventuality.

Imad Khairallah

A menu for the day

NOW that Israelis have declared the occupied territories a closed military region, imposed curfews on cities, towns and villages, cut telephone lines and barred the press from entering the West Bank and Gaza, the Israelis are going to have a ball today massacring Palestinian men, women and children. This will be a day to remember when the Israeli "defence" forces "defend" their right of existence in the "land of Israel" by eliminating those who threaten their "security," especially the Palestinian fighters, today's fighters and the fathers of tomorrow's freedom fighters. So the Israelis will have their ball shooting at their enemies and watching Arab blood pour out into the streets of the holy land. In the meantime, the Arabs from 1948 occupied Palestine will strike on this day as an expression of solidarity with their fellow Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza.

While blood pours on the streets today, we in the Arab World, sons and daughters of the Arab Nation, will express our total support and solidarity with our brethren living under occupation. This morning we will sip our American coffee black in solidarity with the martyrs who fell during the uprising and the many more who will be murdered during the day.

In the evening we will all support them by talking about the "horrible and brutal" measures of the Israeli authorities over a glass of wine. By the end of the day we would have donated our salaries of the day for all those families who need aid in the overcrowded stinking camps in Gaza and the West Bank. We will get drunk tonight over the shed Palestinian blood and weep our heads out over those whose children die today.

It's going to be a busy and tiring day for us in the Arab World paying tribute to our people who are suffering and sacrificing their lives and their children's lives trying to liberate the land to which we all belong.

Sana Atiyeh

When can a German judge a Jew?

By John Kampfner
Reuter

BONN — Do Germans have the right to criticise Israel?

Anytime, says Israel's ambassador in Bonn... so long as they remain moderate and tactful.

Many West Germans, still haunted by the Nazis' systematic murder of "six million Jews," have tended to shuffle in embarrassment when the words "Israel" or "Jew" are mentioned.

But since the upsurge of violence in the Israeli-occupied territories last December, West German politicians and media commentators have had to tackle the problem head-on.

"Personally, I am prepared to accept any honest critique or remark from any German as from anyone else," said Yitzhak Ben-Ari, Israel's envoy here for almost seven years.

"Germans who had no personal responsibility (for the holocaust) can approach the problems of Israel with as much freedom of opinion as others — but perhaps they should use a little bit more tact," he told Reuters in an interview.

Ben-Ari fears strong criticism of Israel's handling of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in which more than 100 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops, is providing a new outlet for die-hard racists.

"Those that are anti-Semites are coming out of their little mouse holes," he said.

Ben-Ari, who leads one of Israel's most important and tightly-guarded diplomatic missions,

said that in the past few months he had received an average of 10 letters a day from West Germans eager to express their views on the uprising.

Half, he said, were sympathetic and about an equal number were critical. Around one in 10 were fiercely anti-Semitic. "These were half-crazy threats, you can see it in the handwriting. Most of them were sent anonymously."

"In Germany there's a lid on the pot which keeps the steam down because of German responsibility for the past," Ben-Ari said. "You don't have the open anti-Semitism that exists in other countries."

Neo-Nazis' success

Heinz Galinski, the newly-elected leader of West Germany's 30,000-strong Jewish community, has warned that the success of several neo-Nazi groupings in recent elections in Baden-Wuerttemberg state bodes ill for tolerance.

"I appeal to politicians of all parties to have a hard think about why the extreme right could get so many votes," he said in a newspaper interview shortly after the March 20 poll.

Politicians have also said the uprising could spawn a resurgence of open anti-Semitism — not just among extreme-right worshippers of Hitler, but in the far left which consistently denounces Israel for Zionist expansionism.

Most politicians, mindful of the sensitivity of the issue, have either been restrained in their

criticism or have refrained outright from saying anything anti-Israeli.

Franz Stenner, a spokesman for the left-wing Greens Party, said the vast majority of the West German left was more pro-Jewish than other political groupings in the country.

"I would rather not use words like Zionist or expansionist," he said. "Germans must take the utmost care before putting themselves in the role of a judge. But we've not overstepped the mark of turning measured criticism of what's going on into anti-Semitism."

In a special parliamentary debate earlier this month called by the Greens, Social Democrat Annemarie Renger, deputy parliamentary speaker and head of the German-Israeli society, urged German critics of Israel not to go too far.

"And I say to those who are propagating a new anti-Semitism in the gutter press under the guise of moral outrage that they have not grasped history and are irresponsibly leading the young generation into madness," she told parliamentarians.

Ben-Ari said he was deeply impressed by the debate, in which speaker after speaker recalled the Nazi past and its lingering effect on Jews.

Otto Schily, on the Greens' moderate wing, said he had heard Germans like the Nazis' "final solution" extermination of Jews with Israeli policy in the occupied territory.

One friend had told him "we're

quits". Schily said. "But you can't wash the blood away," he added.

Richard Chaim Schneider, a Munich-based promoter of Yiddish theatre, said the new generation of West German students, most of whose parents were still children during the 1933-45 Nazi reich, were becoming the most vocal critics of Israel.

And nothing was being done about it, he argued.

"It's astounding how the ability to think and analyse in the German press — and not only there — suffers as soon as Israel becomes the subject," he told the Die Zeit weekly.

West German television has, like its counterparts across the world, shown harrowing scenes of Israeli soldiers breaking the limbs of two Palestinians with stones, and scores of other violent incidents.

Despite sharp attacks in left-wing newspaper like the West Berlin Tageszeitung and among extreme right-wing splinter groups, the mainstream media treat the uprising roughly as they would have done any other trouble-spot.

But according to Schneider, whose parents survived the holocaust, the treatment has been tinged with glee.

"In actual fact, the Germans... are eternally grateful to the Israelis. The events in the Middle East are helping them finally to shake off their burden of guilt (by arguing): 'If Jews are so awful, we don't have to chastise ourselves any more'."

'Yamani sacked because of jealousy and dispute

By Judith Matloff
Reuter

LONDON — Ahmed Zaki Yamani lost his job as Saudi Arabian oil minister in 1986 because of petty jealousies and policy disputes with King Fahd, according to a new biography published on March 28.

The abrupt firing of the man seen as the architect of OPEC's rise in the 1970s stunned the oil world and made many experts wonder if the organisation would lose its authority.

American author Jeffrey Robinson, in "Yamani: The Inside Story," says King Fahd dismissed Yamani because he felt Saudi Arabia's highest-ranking non-royal had grown too important.

The king also opposed Yamani's policy of turning up the taps to restore OPEC's share of the world energy market, which had declined since the 1973 Arab oil embargo as a result of Western efforts to develop new sources

such as the North Sea that were outside OPEC's control.

Yamani wanted to force non-OPEC producers to cut output. But his tactic, creating a glut, also drove down prices by 60 per cent to \$9 a barrel in mid-1986 and slashed Saudi revenues.

The king wanted Yamani to press for both higher production and an oil price at \$18 barrel as an October, 1986, OPEC meeting. Yamani put up some resistance and a week later heard on television he had lost his job, Robinson says.

"His downfall, due to jealousy and his vocal stand against the king's short-term thinking, eliminated from Arab politics the only man whose great credibility as a moderate commanded respect in both the Middle East and the West," Robinson says.

Robinson said Yamani had a free hand in oil policy under Fahd's predecessor and elder brother, King Fahd.

King Fahd regarded Yamani like a son and trusted his know-

ledge and negotiating skills. But Yamani was on uncertain ground after King Fahd was shot dead by a nephew in 1975 and was succeeded by King Khalid and then King Fahd, Robinson says.

Yamani has never talked publicly about his sacking and Robinson said they had agreed not to discuss it or his relations with the royal family during their meetings which took place over several months.

Sensitive ground

According to Robinson, he obtained information on the two topics from other sources. He also said that Yamani wanted to stop the book's publication because it told sensitive ground.

The book is billed as the first done on Yamani, based on several interviews with him and 150 interviews with other people.

Robinson's other works include best-seller "The Risk Takers," a series of portraits of money and power, and its sequel "The Minus Millionaires."

Yamani emerges from the book as a man of intelligence and charm, deeply devoted to his family and his Muslim faith, who rose from a Mecca boyhood to become a jet setting world figure and custodian of one-third of the non-Communist world's oil.

When King Fahd made him oil minister in 1962, he was 32, a shy, U.S.-educated lawyer. Over the next 11 years, as his confidence and skills grew, Yamani master-minded negotiations through which Saudi Arabia took control of its oil resources from the U.S. multinationals and helped to build the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

When the 1973 Arab-Israeli war broke out, and King Fahd opted for an Arab oil embargo against Israel's Western backers, Yamani organised it.

Later, however, Yamani seemed an OPEC "moderate" trying to brake the rush to yet higher prices in the second oil "shock" of 1979 at the time of the

revolution in Iran.

Robinson said Yamani is still shaken by King Fahd's death, which he witnessed, and by a 1975 incident when he and other OPEC ministers were abducted by the international guerrilla, Carlos or "the jackal."

Yamani still retains well-armed bodyguards.

The crisis is coming

He also told Robinson that he still spends half his life travelling, giving lectures and attending to his publishing company, charitable trusts and real estate holdings worldwide.

His thoughts are still very much on oil and he says the next energy crisis is less than 10 years away.

"There will be a shortage," he is quoted as saying. "There's no doubt about that. How serious a shortage and the magnitude of it depends on the next three years.

It may already be too late for the West because the West is always happy for the short-term benefits

of low-priced oil."

Oil is also becoming increasingly important to the Soviet Union, he maintained, saying Moscow's big defence budget and fears of importing oil were major factors behind glasnost and arms reductions deals.

Yamani predicted that by the early 1990s the world oil market and OPEC will be dominated by key Gulf producers.

"OPEC will be changed by then. Some members will disappear as exporters of oil. The Arab oil producers will find themselves in a 'very powerful position,'" he said. "Were Iran to crush Iraq, that inner cartel might itself be dominated by Iran."

Yamani expressed concern about a decline in the U.S. oil industry, which would be forced to rely more on Gulf oil.

"Some day, maybe as soon as the 1990s, Americans will look back and curse the officials who allowed this to happen."

MIDEAST NEWS BRIEFS

Shultz meets with Tunisian counterpart

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz met Monday with Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri to discuss relations between the two countries. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Mestiri's two days of meetings with U.S. officials "reflect the close and friendly nature" of his country's ties with the United States. Mestiri is also to meet with Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, members of Congress and Alan Woods, head of the Agency for International Development, which handles U.S. foreign aid. In the 1988 fiscal year, Tunisia will receive \$38 million in aid, about \$25 million of which is military assistance. This compares with almost \$50 million it got from the United States last year. Shultz and Mestiri are finalising an agreement governing the consular ties between the two countries. The visit is also designed to acquaint the United States with the policies of the government that took over power last year from ailing former President Habib Bourguiba.

Pravda attacks West over Vanunu

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda criticised the West Tuesday for failing to denounce the conviction of former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu for giving away Israeli atomic secrets. Western human rights campaigners have deemed that Vanunu, sentenced to an Israeli court Sunday to 18 years in prison for revealing nuclear secrets to a British newspaper, was unworthy of attention. It said, "Alas, they are silent in Washington, London and the capitals of other NATO countries. The Vanunu case does not agitate Western human rights fighters." Pravda said, "And at issue is cruelty to an honest man, reprisals for his political convictions, for striving to save the world from nuclear catastrophe," it said. "It is sad but true — the philanthropy of Western human rights campaigners is selective." Pravda said Vanunu had been subjected to strong drugs and moral torture and had been tried in an improper court.

Papandreou sends peace message

ISTANBUL (AP) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou has said in a message to the Turkish people that Greece was ready to make every effort for peace with Turkey. "It is a fact that there are problems between our countries which occasionally reach serious dimensions, can create crises and bring our countries to the brink of war," Papandreou said in the message brought here by Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis and read Monday at a news conference of the Greek-Turkish Friendship Committee. "Yet, both nations want to live in peace and this is possible. If only we really want peace and seek solutions to existing problems within the framework of international law," the message said. Greece and Turkey came to the brink of war a year ago over oil-exploration rights in the Aegean Sea. They also have longstanding differences over military control of the Aegean and the divided island of Cyprus. But relations have been steadily improving since Papandreou and Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal met for the first time in Davos, Switzerland, at the end of January.

Qadhafi urges all Libyans to return

BEIRUT (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has said all Libyans would be allowed to return to their country and those who did not would be considered spies, the official Libyan news agency JANA said. "All Libyans abroad will be allowed to return to Libya without preconditions. Those who do not return will be seen as spies working for the American and Zionist secret services," JANA, monitored in Beirut, quoted Qadhafi as saying in a speech. "Every Libyan can now enter and leave the country 1,000 times and his honour, dignity, money and future will be guaranteed," he said. JANA said Qadhafi's decision was part of his "freedom campaign" which included the release of 400 Libyan and 130 foreign prisoners from jails last month. The Libyan leader was speaking on the anniversary of the withdrawal of British forces from Libya in 1970.

Intrigue, suspicion stalk streets of Turkish city

By John Owen-Davies
Reuter

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey — Intrigue and suspicion stalk the narrow alleyways and bustling streets of this ancient walled city perched above the Tigris River in a lonely plain.

Diyaibakir, which has seen conquerors come and go over the centuries, is unofficial capital of Turkey's Kurdish-speaking area and on a heroin smuggling route from Iran to Western Europe.

A Kurdish speaker furtively scribbles a few words on scrap paper in answer to a question and shreds it after twisting his worry beads into mock hangman's noose.

Outside the walls, security men with automatic weapons cordon off a section of road as regional Governor Hayri Kozakcioglu arrives at his office in a fast-moving motorcade.

Kozakcioglu is a prime target for Marxist Kurdish rebels who have been waging a bitter struggle for autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds, not recognised by the government as an ethnic minority.

Diyaibakir, first inhabited about 3,500 years ago, is nerve-centre of a government drive near the Iranian, Iraqi and Syrian frontiers to crush the rebels.

More than 900 people, including women and children in remote settlements, have been killed in four years of violence launched by the underground Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

Diyaibakir, with a population of 310,000 and about 700 kilometres from Ankara, has been largely unaffected by direct violence, mainly because of rigid security in an area crawling with army and para-military gendarmerie troops.

Senior security sources said the number of murders in the city was above the national average — 21 last year — largely because of family blood feuds and for economic reasons in an under-developed area.

The drug connection

"The city is an important centre for drug trafficking," one source said. "But its importance has diminished in recent years because of successful police work."

A total of 81 kilos of heroin were confiscated by police in the first

two months of this year, compared with 19 kilos in the whole of 1987, according to official figures. Diyaibakir has a frontier-style atmosphere, heightening the aura of intrigue.

Uniformed security force troops, suited officials and Kurdish men in traditional baggy trousers jostle on crowded streets with Iraqi and Syrian visitors, Iranians fleeing their country and the occasional European.

In nearby alleyways between mud and brick homes, Kurdish children play noisily watched by mothers in their mainly blue, yellow and pink clothes. They tend to back away at the sight of an unfamiliar face.

Near the military-civilian airport, where U.S.-made F-104 Starfighter jets stand outside blast-proof hangers, men of the police force's special commando unit, akin to Britain's Special Air Service (SAS), go through their tough training routine.

At night, Arab music flows from tawdry coffee houses where men gather in huddles, while armed escorts wait for their officers to emerge from a plush military club.

Kurdish is heard spoken on occasions, maybe between hotel chambermaids and diners in a corner of a restaurant. But they normally revert to Turkish when strangers or others are nearby.

The government does not recognise the language but there are no penalties for speaking it. Ankara recently allowed prisoners in the city's military prison to speak freely with families after a mass hunger strike to demand "freedom of Kurdish".

Diyaibakir is the main city of eight provinces clamped under emergency law and overseen by Kozakcioglu, a civilian and former security chief in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city.

Some residents say Kozakcioglu, known as "Super Vali (governor)," has made life easier since his post was created in mid-1987 after a series of bloody PKK attacks on settlements.

"I asked the police something the other day and received a polite, helpful response. This would never have happened a year ago," said a taxi driver named Vedat.

Known in classical times as Amida, Diyaibakir was annexed to the Roman empire in 297 A.D. Emperor Constantine fortified it 50 years later along lines of the present well-preserved walls.

The city became part of the then Ottoman empire in 1515 after changing hands several times.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Palestinians defy Israeli siege; 11 injured in clashes

(Continued from page 1)

camp and in the Jabalya camp in Gaza, where Palestinians took the streets despite the restrictions.

The army said eight West Bank towns and villages were placed under curfew and eight others were blockaded by the army, preventing residents from entering or leaving.

The Israeli editors' committee urged the government to drop the ban on media coverage of the occupied territories which it said "damages freedom of the press and the public's right to know."

The foreign press association in Israel appealed to the supreme court to overturn the ban.

A fire bomb was thrown at a bus in an Arab district of the northern Galilee, wounding one. Demonstrators in the town of Umm Al Fahm chanted slogans supporting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but a big police force did not intervene, Israel Radio reported.

Troops forced shopkeepers to close their stores throughout the West Bank Tuesday morning.

The PPS said soldiers beat residents of Ramallah and Al Bireh when closing shops and barred the sale of Arabic newspapers.

Bernard Mills, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) director in Gaza, relayed a message by radio to U.N. officials.

"You have 650,000 people under house arrest," he said, reporting a heavy army presence in deserted streets, forcing U.N. workers to sleep in the agency's medical clinics.

The army conducted mass detentions of Palestinians as soon as the restrictions went into effect, arresting 600 overnight, Israel Radio said.

The PPS said 120 were jailed under special powers permitting six months detention without trial. The army confirmed it was making mass arrests, but declined to give figures.

The measures were taken ostensibly to prevent large-scale protests Wednesday, a day marking the 12th anniversary of Land Day, when Israeli soldiers killed six Arabs protesting land confiscation. Thousands of police were mobilised Tuesday evening in Arab towns.

At roadblocks in the West Bank, troops turned away a U.N. official and Save the Children director Chris George, despite an army announcement that the closure would not affect international relief workers.

Both organisations said they would protest.

"It's a full time job now to raise our complaints with the Israeli authorities," U.N. spokesman Bill Lee said.

He said U.N. officials had already protested to Israel about

the cutting of telephone lines to Gaza and the confiscation of identity cards of two of the agency's Arab field workers there.

George said the restrictions seriously disrupted his agency's operations, with half the Jerusalem staff of 10 denied entry into the city.

In Ramallah, an AP reporter saw soldiers forcing merchants, sometimes at gunpoint, to close their shops, and confiscating the identity cards of some.

When the soldiers left, some Palestinians furtively bought bread at bakeries and then rushed back into their homes.

Israeli troops also forcibly shut down major West Bank markets in Jericho, Nablus, Jenin and Ramallah, as well as in Gaza City, said Mona Rishmawi, a lawyer for Law in the Service of Man, a human rights group founded by Palestinian lawyers.

Rishmawi said the measures were aimed at crushing resistance among the Arab middle classes.

"The Israelis have always had a false assumption... they believed if they could just tire out the middle class, they could put down the revolt," she said.

In Nablus, Said Kanaan, a 48-year-old businessman, said the army banned food trucks from entering the city.

"When stores tried to open, troops threw food on the ground and destroyed it. I saw it myself,"

Kanaan said in a telephone interview. "It is a very critical situation here."

Hawkish Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon said the uprising could lead Arab states to launch a surprise war against Israel unless it was quashed by harsher measures.

"The central problem before us today is how to prevent the deteriorating situation from bringing us a surprise Arab war," Sharon said on Israel Radio.

A military court, meanwhile, sentenced Dror Segen-Cohen to six months in jail and Yair Nissim to five months. The two soldiers were convicted of burying four Palestinians alive in the West Bank village of Kfar Salem.

In Amman, the PLO said Tuesday around 200 Palestinians had been killed since the uprising started on Dec. 9.

A list made available to the Jordan Times carrying the names of the martyrs, their age, the date of the deaths and a description of how they died indicated that most of the martyrs died of gunshot wounds or beatings.

Of the 200 who died, 36 were under the age of 15, the youngest of which was a two-month-old girl who died March 13 in Hai Al Zeitouneh in Gaza from effects to tear-gas.

Of the 200, women accounted for 27, some of whom were children.

Genscher, Velayati meet in Athens

ATHENS (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war and a dialogue between the two sides during a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in Athens Tuesday.

Genscher expressed the concern felt by Bonn and the European Community over the escalation of hostilities and the "war of the cities," a German spokesman said after the hour-long breakfast meeting. Both ministers were on official visits to Greece.

Genscher also told Velayati he was concerned about the use of chemical weapons in the war and offered medical assistance in Germany to its victims, the spokesman said.

Genscher, who returned to Bonn shortly after the meeting, accepted an invitation to visit Tehran later in the year, he said.

The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday the 16-year-old son of a senior Iranian leader was in hospital suffering the effects of an alleged Iraqi chemical weapons attack.

IRNA, received in Cyprus, identified the youth as Yasser Hashemi Rafsanjani, son of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of parliament and Tehran's chief spokesman on the Gulf war.

The agency said Yasser Rafsanjani was a student volunteer in operations in Iraq's northern Sulaymaniyah province when he came under Iraqi "chemical warfare attack" last Friday.

It said Amir Mohammadi Khomeini, son of Iran's prosecutor general, was also receiving treatment for injuries caused by chemical weapons.

Iran claims Iraq killed 5,000 Iraqi Kurds when aircraft dumped chemical weapons onto Halabja town and nearby villages after local residents "welcomed" Iranian invaders.

Two United Nations specialists are in Iran to investigate the charges.

Iran said Monday it would go ahead with parliamentary elections April 8 despite daily Iraqi missile and air attacks on its cities.

Fahd dismisses Israeli threats, vows to pursue defence plans

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz said Monday Saudi Arabia would pursue plans to build up its defences, dismissing veiled Israeli threats to the kingdom after it purchased intermediate-range missiles.

The monarch spoke at a regular meeting of his cabinet.

Information Minister Ali Al Shaer quoted Fahd as telling the cabinet: "Saudi Arabia will go ahead with its ratified defence programmes and will pursue its Islamic mission and Arab duties."

Shaer said the cabinet reviewed solidarity with the kingdom expressed by most Arab governments after "repeated Israeli threats to strike at the missiles that the kingdom has bought to defend its soil and sacred shrines."

Saudi Arabia confirmed last week that it had bought CSS-2 missile, which have a range of 3,500 kilometres, but stressed it would not equip them with nuclear warheads.

It said the missiles were part of its plans to diversify its multi-billion-dollar arsenal to bolster defences.

The kingdom's shipping lanes have been menaced by spillovers of the 7½-year-old Iran-Iraq war. Iran, accusing Saudi Arabia of aiding Iraq, also has made threats against the kingdom.

The Washington Post reported last week that Israel might carry out a pre-emptive strike on the missiles.

Yossi Ben Aharon, a top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, has warned Israel had the reputation of "not waiting till potential dangers become a reality."

Fahd expressed his "deepest gratitude and appreciation" for the messages of support from fellow Arab leaders, Shaer said.

The monarch also stressed Saudi Arabia's "legitimate right in pursuing our sovereignty over our land and defending our homeland and the Islamic sanc-

ties," a reference to Mecca and Medina.

Support for Saudi Arabia after the Israeli threats has included a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"Fahd to visit Cairo"

Quoting diplomatic sources in Cairo, the state-run newspaper Al Itihad in Abu Dhabi reported Monday that Fahd would visit Egypt April 4 to discuss the Israeli statements with Mubarak.

There was no official confirmation from Cairo or Riyadh.

"The Egyptian stand on the Israeli threats would give new horizons to the Egyptian-Saudi coordination and cooperation exceeding theoretical stands," Al Itihad quoted the sources, as saying.

Saudi Deputy Defence Minister Prince Abdul Rahman Ibn Abdul Aziz has described the Israeli statements as "flagrant interference in affairs concerning the kingdom's security and sovereignty."

Riyadh Radio quoted the defence official as telling a graduation ceremony Sunday at the Air Defence Academy in Jeddah, that Arab reactions "were very demonstrative and affirmed Arab solidarity in securing comprehensive Arab security against any foreign threat."

Several Arab states, including Jordan and Syria, have said any Israeli raid on Saudi Arabia would be considered an attack on them.

U.S. kept in dark

The Washington Post reported Tuesday that Saudi Arabia used ruses to keep U.S. intelligence agencies in the dark for more than two years about its acquisition of the missiles.

Walsh opts for compromise with Israel over Iran probe

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh and the Israeli government have reached an agreement on Israeli cooperation in the criminal investigation into the Iran-contra scandal.

"It is far short of what we would have liked, but it is better than nothing. It is assistance that will be useful," a source close to Walsh said after both sides announced the recently signed agreement Monday.

Sources close to Walsh's investigation told Reuter the agreement, approved by the Israeli cabinet, resolved Israeli concerns that its "national security" secrets and its "rights as a sovereign state" might be undermined if it cooperated.

The accord capped more than a year of tough negotiations. Israel's cooperation was critical to Walsh's investigation because of the deep involvement by Israeli officials in the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

Israel said it made available to Walsh relevant documents, including financial and historical chronologies given to the congressional committees that investigated the scandal and the written clarifications to questions asked by the committees.

Sources close to Walsh said the material turned over by Israel may be used as evidence in court and that key Israeli officials linked to the affair may provide written answers to questions from Walsh's investigators.

In return, Walsh apparently agreed to revoke the subpoenas he issued to four Israelis who arranged the 1985 and 1986 shipment of U.S.-made anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles to Iran, an Israeli official and a U.S. lawyer indicated.

"He will get what he wants without us having to give up what we

wanted," said the official, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Melvin Rische, a lawyer representing the Israeli government, said: "We have reached terms of how we would proceed, making litigation unnecessary," indicating that Walsh had agreed to withdraw the grand jury subpoenas.

Israel's government wanted the summons dropped, contending that all four Israelis were acting under its orders and thus were immune from prosecution and questioning by U.S. officials.

The agreement with Walsh is "on a government-to-government" basis, according to Israeli embassy spokesman Yossi Gal, which means any questions for the four must be channelled through official Israeli representatives.

Walsh and the Israeli embassy issued brief statements announcing the cooperation agreement, but said the contents would remain classified.

The documents handed over to Walsh include detailed financial and historical chronologies prepared by Israel for the congressional Iran-contra committees last summer, the Israeli official said.

When Israel gave the chronologies to Congress, it stipulated that Walsh be denied access to the documents because of his refusal to grant immunity to the four Israeli players.

Along with the documents, Walsh has also been given written answers to the questions posed last year by the congressional investigators in regard to the chronologies, the official said.

The documents are expected to help Walsh answer some of his questions about Israel's Swiss bank account, which handled the funds for the shipments to Iran.



King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz

It said the affair suggested a significant U.S. intelligence failure because China agreed in principle to the missile sale in July 1985, but U.S. agencies were not sure the Chinese missiles were in Saudi Arabia until two months ago.

U.S. officials were alarmed when they made the discovery because, until then, China's CSS-2 missiles carried only nuclear warheads, the newspaper said.

But it said both Saudi Arabia and China assured U.S. officials the Saudi missiles would not be armed with nuclear warheads, although Saudi Arabia has refused to allow U.S. inspection of the missiles.

The newspaper reported last week that Israel had been conducting low-level bombing practice in what U.S. intelligence agencies thought might be preparation for a pre-emptive strike against the missiles.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, negotiated the sale two years ago while in China for what Americans were told was an effort to stop China's sale of arms to Iran, the Post said.

It said the Saudis told the Americans they offered to compensate China for the Iran sales loss by buying the same weapons, including Silkworm missiles, for Iraq and shipping them through Saudi Arabia.

China began shipping the missiles to Saudi Arabia late last year. They were taken by road to what the Saudis told Americans was only an "ammunition depot" south of Riyadh, the Post added.

It said U.S. intelligence agencies detected some sign of the Saudi missiles last autumn. But they were not certain until January, when they detected some of the missiles, supposedly north-bound for Iraq, being taken by truck south to the Saudi depot.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Shultz trip aimed at stressing 'equity and balance' in plan

(Continued from page 1)

synonymous," adding that "our restrictions on dealing with the PLO remain as always. There's been no change in that." He stressed that, "we're not trying to fine-tune words and to find new words to get at this. This was not a meeting with the PLO. What I'm trying to tell you is that nothing has changed."

Asked why Shultz had decided to return to the Middle East even though none of the region's leaders has endorsed the U.S. peace

initiative, Redman explained that "from the start, we have emphasised that this is very much a process. It's one in which we are deeply engaged, continue to be intensively engaged, as the kind of contacts that we're talking about continue to demonstrate."

"The secretary has made it clear on many occasions that he's prepared to go to the Middle East whenever his presence can help. At a time when the U.S. proposal is under serious and active consideration by the parties, the secretary will be emphasising that

it represents a fair and balanced approach to the Arab-Israeli problem and that decisions need to be made."

Redman underscored Shultz's willingness to meet with representatives of the Palestinians. "He's certainly ready to do that. Whether or not something will be arranged, we'll just have to see," the spokesman said.

During his last trip to the region, Shultz read a statement at the American Colony Hotel in Arab Jerusalem, outlining the U.S. position on Palestinian rep-

resentation in the peace process. No "fundamental change"

On the broader issue of a comprehensive Middle East peace, "fundamentally, our position has not changed," Redman declared. "Our policy is that the way to solve this problem is through direct, bilateral face-to-face negotiations. That's what we're for," he said. "An international conference could be a way to launch the negotiations — face-to-face bilateral negotiations. So we haven't changed our position as to how to get at this problem."

Papandreou stresses 'pragmatic' policies

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreou Monday told a conference on investing in Greece that his Socialist government now hopes to speed up economic development by following "pragmatic" policies.

Papandreou also stressed that Greece was firmly committed to the European Community, and to improving relations with NATO ally Turkey after years of rivalry for control of the Aegean Sea region.

"Such realistic actions express the practical — pragmatic if you like — spirit that has started to rule our political life," the premier said in an after-dinner speech to delegates.

More than two hundred business-

men, including several Turkish industrialists, were attending the two-day conference organised by the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce and the International Herald Tribune.

Greece has attracted minimal foreign investment during seven years of rule by Papandreou's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek).

Businessmen in the past have said they were scared off by sudden state takeovers of several

private Greek firms and by fiscal pressures on offshore companies operating out of Athens.

Papandreou said his government is now actively seeking private investment, although the state would continue to play a leading role in development projects.

The government is currently examining bids for a \$7 billion public works programme that includes an extension to the Athens subway, river diversion and bridge projects and a new airport for the capital.

Papandreou said recent figures showed "we are on the eve of a private investment boom."

Greece's 1985-87 economic stabilisation programme trimmed annual inflation from 25 to 16 per

cent, reduced the current account deficit from \$3.3 to \$1.3 billion and brought net borrowing down to zero.

Economic growth this year is forecast at 2.5 per cent, while inflation could come down to 12 per cent by December 1988, its lowest level in more than a decade.

Foreign investor interest is also encouraged by banking and stock exchange reforms aimed at developing a modern money market in Greece after years of tight restrictions.

"One of the great opportunities for the 1990s is for Greece to become a financial centre for the Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa," Papandreou said.

Reagan lashes out at protectionism again

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — President Reagan, in a campaign-style attack on the Democrats, warned Monday that trade policies advocated by his opponents could throw many Americans out of work.

"They talk about saving jobs, but they want provisions that have the potential to destroy thousands if not millions of American jobs," he said.

During a visit to a metals factory benefiting from an export boom, Reagan also repeated his oft-stated threat to veto a pending trade bill if it included sections that he viewed as protectionist.

He also predicted that advocates of restrictive trade practices would fail to capitalise on the issue politically in the U.S. elections next fall.

"Protectionism isn't just bad economics — it's bad politics. I think the American people have decided that one Great Depression is enough, and they aren't going to give the trade demagogues a second chance," Reagan said, arguing that post World War I wave of protectionism precipitated the worst economic downturn in modern history.

While Reagan did not single out the Democratic Party by name, White House officials confirmed that the political opposition was in fact the target of his speech.

"They've got a trade bill before Congress that could squelch productivity, destroy American competitiveness, and make all their doomsday myths a reality," he charged.

The omnibus trade bill is being hammered into final shape by a congressional conference committee, which hopes to complete work before Congress begins a 10-day Easter vacation Friday.

"You may have been reading lately that the trade bill is making good progress — that a lot of protectionist provisions have been jettisoned," Reagan said.

"There is some truth to that. But there's a long way to go before the legislation does more harm than good to the U.S. economy," he added.

Reagan said the most objectionable provision of the bill would require mandatory retaliatory measures against foreign nations failing to open their markets to U.S. goods.

He was apparently referring to the so-called "Gephardt amendment," named after Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Democrat who highlighted trade in his unsuccessful campaign to win his party's presidential nomination.

Shortly before Reagan spoke, Gephardt told a Washington news conference he was dropping out of the presidential race after a series of poor primary showings.

"Now I'll veto (the trade bill) if I must," Reagan said. "Only wholesale elimination of the objectionable provisions will produce a bill I can sign."

Congressional trade negotiators were expected to drop the Gephardt amendment from the final version of the bill.

East Bloc, West agree to fight world poverty

NEW DELHI (R) — The Soviet Union told a four-day meeting on poverty, development and survival at the East Bloc would join with the West to fight Third World poverty.

"Poverty brought East and the West together in rare detente at an international conference that ended here Monday though the developing world accused the West of paternalism."

"There seems to be a blurring of economic ideologies," said Maurice Williams, secretary-general of the Society for International Development (SID). About 1,500 delegates from 65 countries attended the conference organised by SID, a non-governmental organisation funded by several U.N. groups.

The conference was the first attended by the Soviet Union and Moscow took the chance to announce stepped up aid to the Third World, including South East Asian nations. Delegation leader Vladimir Khorsos said increased aid would come from lower military spending under his country's new disarmament policy.

Disarmament dominated the final day.

Inga Thorsson of Sweden made an impassioned plea for lower spending, saying that unless milit-

ary development slowed "there will be no development, no human life worth living."

The conference also threw up controversies over women's rights and measuring poverty with economic indicators.

Prince Claus of The Netherlands stressed economic growth, saying production and exports must be increased to generate resources needed for an acceptable social policy.

Enrique Iglesias of Uruguay said economic growth and self-reliance was still seen as a yardstick.

"It is a tricky issue. We in Latin America recognise our own responsibilities on the debt situation, but it should not mean that because our per capita income is higher than Africa's, we do not have areas of comparable poverty," he noted.

The new SID president said economic growth was just one criterion. Distribution of wealth was equally important in measuring the standard of living.

Several African and Asian delegates voiced a more extreme view.

Zimbabwe's Sibongile Sibanda saw little change in the attitude of rich nations.

"We heard the same old rhetoric at this conference," she

said. "The paternalistic attitude of the developed world in trying to run our lives just because they give us aid. We say, leave us alone. We are trying to be self-sufficient."

She said donors tried to set controls on projects, though

there was a limit to the ills that could be blamed on them. "It is time we took a serious look at ourselves and asked whether our organisational structures, programmes and priorities reflect the collective will and endeavour of our people."

IBM leads Forbes list

NEW YORK (AP) — International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) leads Forbes magazine's list of the nation's most valuable companies for a fourth consecutive year, the magazine said Monday.

IBM's stock market value at the end of 1987 was \$69 billion, a decline of 5.2 per cent from 1986. That was still enough to surpass Exxon Corp., whose stock market value rose 4.5 per cent to \$52.6 billion.

IBM, the world's largest computer company, has led the Forbes list since 1984, when American Telephone and Telegraph Co. fell from first place because of its breakup into several companies.

Merkel and Co. Inc., the New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company, climbed to sixth from ninth. Ford Motor Co. ascended to ninth from 15th, while General Motors Corp. fell to eighth from fifth.

Stock market value is determined by multiplying the price of a company's stock by the number of its shares.

The top companies in Forbes' market value list, which will appear in the "Forbes 500s" issue of April 25, are:

1. International Business

Machines Corp., \$69 billion, down 5.2 per cent.

2. Exxon Corp., \$52.6 billion, up 4.5 per cent.

3. General Electric Co., \$39.8 billion, up 1.6 per cent.

4. American Telephone and Telegraph Co., \$29 billion, up 8.2 per cent.

5. Du Pont Co., \$20.9 billion, up 3.5 per cent.

6. Merck and Co. Inc., \$20.8 billion, up 23.2 per cent.

7. Philip Morris Cos. Inc., \$20.2 billion, up 18.2 per cent.

8. General Motors Corp., \$19.1 billion, down 9.0 per cent.

9. Ford Motor Co., \$18.6 billion, up 26.6 per cent.

10. Amoco Corp., \$17.8 billion, up 6.5 per cent.

Spantax closes

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain (AP) — Some 7,000 Easter vacationers were stranded in airports around Europe Tuesday after the Spain-based charter airline Spantax unexpectedly closed operations for lack of funds, a company official said.

Sales Director Pedro Caro said the company, which is some 10 billion pesetas (\$88 million) in debt, had closed because it had run out of funds and could not find new investors.

MAID WANTED

A Filipino house maid to work for a small Jordanian family.

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TWO FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 two-bedroom and 1 three-bedroom apartments, ground floor, fully furnished with telephone line in a first class building. Located near the 4th Circle Jabal Amman.

Tel: 633416/642970

Jordanian fair in Riyadh ends

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has concluded a week-long trade fair in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia where it displayed products by 100 industrial companies, according to Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) Director-General Ghazi Diyab.

Diyab, who returned to Amman Tuesday, said that the fair,

which ended Monday evening, displayed Jordanian engineering, plastic, food, medical, chemical and leather products in addition to clothes, oriental ornaments and other items.

The fair was in implementation of resolutions by the Joint Jordanian-Saudi Arabian Economic Committee.

Switzerland lends Jordan SF 60m to up development

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Switzerland will help Jordan carry out a number of development projects in Amman, Aqaba and other parts of the Kingdom through a 60 million Swiss franc loan repayable over 25 years, in accordance with minutes signed by the two sides in Amman Tuesday.

The signing of the minutes by Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf and a visiting Swiss economic delegation led by Sylvio Arioli, was the climax of a week-long talks with Jordanian officials and visits by the Swiss team to Aqaba, the Jordan Valley and other areas where the projects will be implemented.

The minutes show that the two sides have discussed and approved a project involving "gantry" installations to be set up at Aqaba harbour for unloading grain from cargo ships and vessels docking in Aqaba. Other projects which were approved include the purchase and installation of surveying equipment for the benefit of the Land and Survey Department in Amman and laying transmission cables for the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA). The last job will be implemented by a Swiss firm.

The minutes provide for a feasibility study to be made on a weaving and spinning factory to be set up in Jordan. Once the study has been approved, work will go ahead in installing machinery and other equipment needed for beginning production.

The agreement provides for an allocation of five million Swiss francs from the total loan for the benefit of Jordan's Industrial Development Bank which will use the funds to finance small and middle size private industries.

Besides approving these projects, the Swiss and the Jordanian officials discussed technical, scientific, and technological cooperation.

The Swiss team met during the visit with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who urged Switzerland to help the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in the process of transferring modern technology to Jordan and to lead the way in a joint-venture project, incorporating capital and scientific know-how.

The delegation visited the Jordan Valley region to inspect different agricultural projects and

Aqaba where they toured the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company among other projects in the port city.

The delegation's activities Tuesday included a meeting with Public Works and Housing Minister Shafiq Zawaideh with whom they discussed Jordan's road and dam projects, including the Al Waddeh Dam along the Syrian-Jordanian border, and the possibility of Swiss technical assistance in implementing such projects.

They met also with Amman Financial Market (AFM) Director-General Hisham Sabbagh who presented a briefing on the market's operations.

Sabbagh said that under new Jordanian regulations, Switzerland and other foreign countries would be able to trade in Jordanian stocks and shares.

The Swiss also met Tuesday with Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni and discussed with him venues where Switzerland can help in promoting the Jordanian tourism industry through training Jordanians in hotel management and by facilitating Swiss tourist group visits to Jordan.

Swiss embassy sources told the Jordan Times that one third of the 60 million Swiss franc loan will be coming from the Swiss government without interest, and repayable over 25 years with 10 year grace period.

The rest will carry a five per cent interest with a three year grace period and also repayable over 25 years.

Overall, the whole loan will have less than two per cent interest throughout the period, the sources said.

Jordan and Switzerland signed an agreement in 1976 to launch economic cooperation and formed a joint commission to carry out this agreement.

But it was not until 1986 that the two sides agreed on the 60 million Swiss franc loan which is now to be used to finance projects included in the minutes.

Sylvio Arioli and his delegation arrived in Amman last Thursday and were joined here by Swiss Ambassador to Jordan, Harald Borner, and the embassy's trade officer Suleiman Far.

The visit was upon an invitation by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai during his visit to Switzerland last November in the company of His Majesty King Hussein.

The delegation members are due to leave for home Wednesday.

Ministry awards tenders to prepare designs for border posts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has awarded two tenders to two local consultancy firms for preparing designs to set up border posts at Rweishid (Rurbi) at the Jordanian-Iraqi border and Jaber at the Jordanian-Syrian border.

Each of the integrated centres will be set up on 30,000 square metres and will have all basic utilities and services, according to

Public Works and Housing Minister Shafiq Zawaideh.

Zawaideh said that a number of concerned departments, grouped in a committee formed by the government, have helped to define the requirements for these integrated border posts.

Work on the projects, he said, is expected to start before the end of this year.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Monday March 28, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	249086	JD 322,408	438
Top three companies:			
Universal Insurance	52985	JD 62,775	92
Intermediate Petrochemicals	21370	JD 30,301	46
Arab Bank Ltd.	220	25,025	17
Parallel market:	18173	JD 10,712	—
Development bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8625/35	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2360/70	Canadian dollar
	1.6660/70	Deutschmarks
	1.8705/15	Dutch guilders
	1.3767/77	Swiss francs
	34.87/92	Belgian francs
	5.6480/6510	French francs
	1233/1234	Italian lire
	124.90/125.00	Japanese yen
	5.8940/90	Swedish crowns
	6.2750/2800	Norwegian crowns
	6.3865/3915	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	454.70/455.20	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed sharply higher after good performances on international markets boosted confidence among some Australian buyers. By close of trade, the All Ordinaries index was 15.4 points higher at 1,396.1.

TOKYO — Share prices closed higher with aggressive buying continued from Monday. The Nikkei index surged 330.38 points to 25,953.09.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed sharply higher in fairly active trade on continued buying, mainly by large local investors. The Hang Seng index rose 54.83 to close at 2,521.61.

SINGAPORE — The stock market fell for the fourth consecutive day on lack of follow-through buying support and some selling pressure in fairly quiet trade. The Straits Times industrial index lost 5.87 points to 919.35.

BOMBAY — Heavy buying by state-owned investment institutions stopped a two-week-long slide and helped share to recover. Century Textiles rose 31.25 rupees to 805.

FRANKFURT — Shares rose sharply across the board in a technical reaction to earlier losses as domestic investors took advantage of cheap prices. The Commerzbank index, set at mid-session, was up 32.2 at 1,374.0.

ZURICH — Prices were broadly higher on bargain-hunting technical reaction to Monday's sharp decline. The All Share Swiss index gained 21.9 to 815.9.

PARIS — Prices were firmer in quiet trade as bargain-hunting reversed a downward trend of recent sessions. The 50-share bourse indicator rose by 1.35 per cent.

LONDON — Prices closed near the day's highs, helped by news that British Aerospace had agreed terms to buy the government's 99.8 per cent stake in the Rover Group. At 1455 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 18.2 at 1,764.7.

NEW YORK — Stocks levelled off broadly higher after an early rally based on a recovery in the dollar. The Dow was up 11 at 1,991.

Jordanian-Saudi company opens first meeting today

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the joint Jordanian-Saudi Arabian Industrial Agricultural Investment Company are due to meet here Wednesday to study procedures for registering the company at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in order to pave the way for its coming operations.

A Ministry of Industry and Trade official said that both sides will finalise the joint company's bylaws and work plans in the coming week.

The company has a \$50 million capital shared equally between the two countries.

Legislators demand better deal for hard-hit farmers in China

PEKING (R) — Members of China's parliament are demanding a better deal for the nation's farmers, burdened by soaring production costs and corrupt and greedy officials.

The People's Daily Monday quoted a delegate to the National People's Congress from Shaanxi in central China as saying grain output in his area had failed to exceed the 1984 level, investment was falling and irrigation facilities were in disrepair.

"If we don't take urgent measures, our agriculture will wither away," said Chi Lin, a delegate from Hubei.

The congress, held once a year, gives a rare opportunity to delegates from remote areas of China to argue for a bigger share of scarce national resources.

Advocates of investment in agriculture must do battle with entrenched interests like industry and national defence.

Chi said investment in agriculture had slumped from 17.8 per cent of the national budget in 1981-85 to only 5.4 per cent last year.

FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

TEL. 637009, 636445

Registration is now open at the French Cultural Centre for the following courses:

- French language courses for adults (all levels)
- Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris)
- Arabic language courses for foreigners (all levels)
- Music courses (piano, German flute, saxophone, guitar)
- Handicraft courses (art of flower making, silk painting)

The courses will start on Monday 4/4/1988 and will last on Sunday 19/6/1988.

For more information, please contact the library of the centre, telephone 636445.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

SOME ONE LIKE YOU

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOM CINEMA** «Formerly Opera» Tel: 675573

St. Elmos Five

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

STITCHES

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

سورة الفاتحة

Police nab soccer thugs

WOLVERHAMPTON, England (AP) — Police arrested 60 people Tuesday in what was described as the biggest single sweep against soccer thugs in England.

The pre-dawn raids, involving some 250 officers and backed by information provided by a British government crime computer, were aimed at gangs of fans of the Wolverhampton Wanderers, a fourth-division club.

Police codenamed the action operation growth, for get rid of Wolverhampton's troublesome hooligans. It was seen as part of nationwide efforts to clean up the image of English soccer before this summer's European Championships in West Germany.

Since the club tumbled from the heights of English soccer into the lowest reaches in recent seasons, the Wolverhampton fans have been linked to some of the worst violence in and around stadiums.

Wolverhampton police chief superintendent David Ibbis said the thugs had taken advantage of visiting poorer grounds in the Fourth Division that sometimes cannot segregate fans.

There had been "dreadful scenes tantamount to riots" at several Wolverhampton away games, with major problems at Torquay, Crewe, Bolton, Cardiff and Scarborough, he said.

The suspects were brought before judges on charges of criminal damage, conspiracy to cause riots and assault. They were released on bail.

Ibbis said 15 police officers had worked fulltime on the investigation since the beginning of December. This included undercover work "penetrating and infiltrating" the gangs, he said.

For the first time in an inquiry against organized football violence, police also used the home office's computer to help build up information on the gangs and their ringleaders.

It produced the largest number of arrests in the series of operations mounted by police forces throughout England against organized soccer violence, police said.

By late in the day, 60 men between 17 and 38 years old had been arrested. Authorities originally said 65 arrests had been made with more suspects being sought, but they later reduced the figure.

Documents found during the raids on homes in a half-dozen cities and towns in the West Midlands indicated that some of those arrested were members of three violent gangs.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Egypt sacks British soccer coach

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's football federation said Tuesday it had sacked British coach Mike Smith after the national side's poor showing in the African Nations Cup. A federation spokesman said another foreign trainer would be hired to replace Smith, whose long-ball tactics were criticized by Egyptian soccer commentators. Egypt, defending champions in the African Cup, were eliminated in the early rounds of the finals in Morocco last week. They won only three points from three matches, beating underdogs Kenya 3-0, losing 1-0 to Cameroon and drawing 0-0 with Nigeria. Smith, a former trainer for the Welsh national team, had coached Egypt since 1986. He was not immediately available for comment on his dismissal.

Italy calls in under-21s to face Yugoslavia

MILAN (R) — Italian soccer manager Azeglio Vicini has called up four members of his under-21 team for the European Championship warm-up against Yugoslavia Thursday. The 18-man squad includes midfielder Nicola Berti, summoned for the first time, defender Paolo Maldini, striker Ruggiero Rizzitelli, and midfielder Massimo Crippa. All four played last Wednesday in Italy's 2-2 quarter-final second-leg under-21 European Championship match against France, who won 4-3 on aggregate. Aged 19 to 22, they represent the fresh talent Vicini is grooming with one eye on June's championships in West Germany, when Italy start among the favorites, and the other on the 1990 World Cup finals on home soil. Alessandro Altobelli and Salvatore Bagni, veterans from the last World Cup, were again left out of the squad, unchanged except for Berti and midfielder Francesco Romano from the 18 on duty for last month's friendly against the Soviet Union.

West Germany to lose Thon

WEST BERLIN (R) — Promising young West German midfielder Olaf Thon said Tuesday he expected to sign for an Italian club within the next 10 days. Thon, training with the West German team for a four-nation tournament starting Thursday, is the third midfielder in the home squad to announce within 24 hours that he would almost certainly be moving abroad next season. On Monday Andreas Brehme said he had a concrete offer from a foreign club, though he would not name the team or country. His Bayern Munich team-mate Lothar Matthaus also confirmed he would shortly be signing for Internazionale Milan of Italy. Thon, 21, a diminutive but richly gifted youngster, plays for his home town club of Schalke in Gelsenkirchen. Schalke is asking 6.5 million marks (\$3.9 million) for him.

British officials oppose S. Africa tour

TWICKENHAM, England (AP) — England's top rugby official said Tuesday he was against an All-Star tour of South Africa this summer, which has brought threats of an Olympic boycott. Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, said he and other committee members were opposed to formal tours of the racially segregated nation, which is barred from most international sports events. "The committee felt the climate of public opinion was wrong for such a tour," Wood said. The panel earlier had rejected calls for tours of South Africa by teams representing either the four "home countries" — England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland — or rugby's five nations — those four, plus France. "Although it was not discussed, this rest of the world tour falls into the same category," Wood said.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You would be wise to pay particular attention to the fine details of any projects you may be involved in today, as potential difficulties will abound. Try to improve your efficiency at your workplace.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't try to force your views on anyone; avoid this, especially with people in positions of power. Don't let yourself become confused.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't neglect your daily duties or other responsibilities in order to get involved in some recreation which is purely not worth while. You need to concentrate on a personal matter, and not let a small business affair take up your time. Be loyal to your friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If a disagreement develops between a superior and a business partner, don't be afraid to stand behind your own opinions.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Although you have much work to do, it may be a good idea to take some time to find the data you need to get through it more quickly.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be very cautious where finances are concerned. Avoid expensive entertainments, for starters, and don't get involved in any risky ventures.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you must meet with a person who tends to act rather hastily, don't meet in your home. An outside meeting would prevent trouble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Ignore the complaints of a discontented co-worker, and carry through with your plans just as you have arranged them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Forget unimportant practical affairs for a while, and concentrate on improving a talent you possess that can help you to be more successful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) This is not a good time to just sit around and vegetate, as you could miss some great opportunities. Visit some good friends tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Put more enthusiasm and energy into your activities, and you'll receive some fine benefits. Catch up on your correspondence tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you get involved in an argument between a good friend and a financial expert, you will more than likely end up being the loser.

TENNIS

Cueto wins 1st round of Eckerd Open

LARGO, Florida (AP) — Rain prevented two evening matches Monday night. But it didn't stop seventh-seeded Isabel Cueto of West Germany from defeating Terry Phelps of the United States, 6-1, 6-2 in the first round of the \$200,000 Eckerd Tennis Open.

Other first-round winners at the Bardinor country club included Sabrina Goles, Petra Huber, Patricia Tarabini, Rosalyn Fairbank and Kathleen Horvath.

First-round matches involving second-seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria and sixth-seed Sylvia Hanika of West Germany were rained out Monday night.

Cueto, playing only her second tournament of the season, said she was nervous before her match.

"I played bad at Lipton, and I was afraid I would play bad today," she said.

Her nerves quickly steadied as she raced to a 5-0 opening set lead. In the second set, Cueto broke Phelps' serve to open the set and again in the fifth game to take a commanding 4-1 advantage and the win.

She discovered later that she had slightly injured her left shoulder, but she said she hoped to continue in the tournament.

In earlier matches, Goles of Argentina defeated 16-year-old Donna Faber of the United States, 6-2, 7-5. Huber of Austria downed Iwona Kuczyńska of France 6-4, 6-4.

Tarabini of Argentina got by Beverly Bowes of the United States, a semifinalist here last year, 6-1, 7-6 (7-2). Fairbank defeated Hu Na of the United States, 7-5, 6-3. Horvath, a local player, fought off Camille Benjamin of the United States, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Top seed Chris Evert of the United States, third-seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany, fourth-seed Zina Garrison of the United States, and fifth-seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria face first-round matches Tuesday.

In doubles, Cueto and Arantxa Sanchez of Spain defeated Andrea Betzner of West Germany and Judith Wiesner of Austria, 7-5, 7-5; and Katerina Maleeva and Dinky Van Rensburg of South Africa defeated Bettina Fulco and Emilee Raponi-Longo, both of Argentina, 6-4, 6-1.

ARLINGTON, Texas (R) — The top 20 men's moneywinners, as released by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Monday:

1. Mats Wilander (Sweden)	221,915	dollars
2. Boris Becker (West Germany)	185,998	"
3. Tim Mayotte (U.S.)	135,067	"
4. Chris Evert (U.S.)	130,669	"
5. Miloslav Mecir (Czechoslovakia)	125,513	"
6. John Fitzgerald (Australia)	122,049	"
7. Andrei Chesnokov (Soviet Union)	115,398	"
8. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	106,680	"
9. Jimmy Connors (U.S.)	104,090	"
10. Emilio Sanchez (Spain)	91,608	"
11. Andre Agassi (U.S.)	90,212	"
12. Pat Cash (Australia)	88,104	"
13. Amos Mansdorf (Israel)	63,137	"
14. Jonas Svensson (Sweden)	60,095	"
15. Ramesh Krishnan (India)	56,655	"
16. Mikael Pernfors (Sweden)	55,553	"
17. Michiel Schapers (Netherlands)	54,916	"
18. Yaya Dombia (Senegal)	53,710	"
19. Anders Jarryd (Sweden)	48,638	"
20. Guy Forget (France)	47,747	"

MIAMI (R) — Top 20 moneywinners on the women's tennis circuit, as released by the Women's International Tennis Association (WITA) Monday:

1. Steffi Graf (West Germany)	309,712	dollars
2. Martina Navratilova (U.S.)	225,129	"
3. Pam Shriver (U.S.)	170,500	"
4. Chris Evert (U.S.)	134,850	"
5. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)	116,575	"
6. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia)	89,850	"
7. Claudia Kohde-Kilsch (West Germany)	69,125	"
8. Zina Garrison (U.S.)	64,946	"
9. Lori McNeil (U.S.)	57,687	"
10. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)	46,864	"
11. Hana Mandlikova (Australia)	45,287	"
12. Patty Fendick (U.S.)	44,286	"
13. Stephanie Rehe (U.S.)	40,850	"
14. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.)	40,775	"
15. Barbara Potter (U.S.)	40,721	"
16. Larisa Savchenko (Soviet Union)	38,525	"
17. Gigi Fernandez (Puerto Rico)	31,250	"
18. Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union)	30,975	"
19. Elna Reinach (South Africa)	29,987	"
20. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)	29,125	"

An All-Star baseball team costs \$18.4m

NEW YORK (AP) — The most expensive lineup in baseball would cost an owner \$18.469 million this year but exclude Roger Clemens, Don Mattingly, Wade Boggs, George Bell and Andre Dawson.

The best team money can buy, using last season's Associated Press All-Stars, would cost an owner \$6.3 million less and include Clemens, Mattingly, Boggs, Bell and Dawson.

Ozzie Smith, the St. Louis Cardinals' shortstop, will have the highest salary in baseball this season at \$2.34 million, according to a review of major league salaries conducted by the Associated Press.

Boston outfielder Jim Rice is second at \$2,229,822. Catcher Gary Carter of the New York Mets is third at \$2,160,714, and Baltimore first baseman Eddie Murray, fourth, at \$2,160,035.

Philadelphia third baseman Mike Schmidt is fifth at \$2.15 million and Chicago Cubs pitcher Rick Sutcliffe, sixth, at \$2.07 million.

Completing the most expensive team in baseball are outfielders Dale Murphy of Atlanta at \$2 million, Dave Winfield of the New York Yankees at \$1,958,651 and second baseman Paul Molitor of Milwaukee at \$1.4 million.

Two of the nine players with \$2-million salaries this season are excluded because of higher-paid players at their positions — Fernando Valenzuela of the Los Angeles Dodgers (\$2.05 million)

and Mattingly (\$2 million), who signed a \$6.7-million, three-year contract with the Yankees this winter, the most lucrative deal of the offseason.

Salaries were obtained from several player and management sources. They include pro-rated shares of signing bonuses and benefits but discounts parts of salaries that are deferred without interest. Many of the players have incentive-bonus clauses that could increase their incomes.

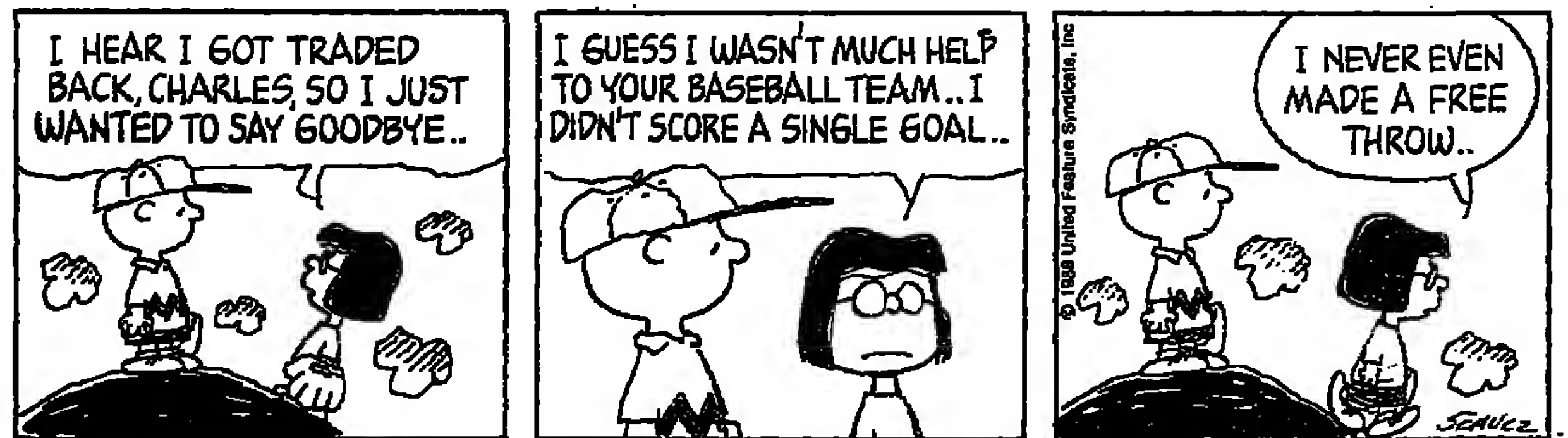
None of the highest-paid players made the 1987 AP All-Star team. Clemens, the two-time American League Cy Young Award winner who will make \$1.35 million, was the pitcher with the most votes.

Benito Santiago, the catcher, has the lowest salary of the AP All-Stars at \$1,675,000. He also is the only AP All-Star not eligible for salary arbitration. Santiago was National League Rookie of the year in 1987.

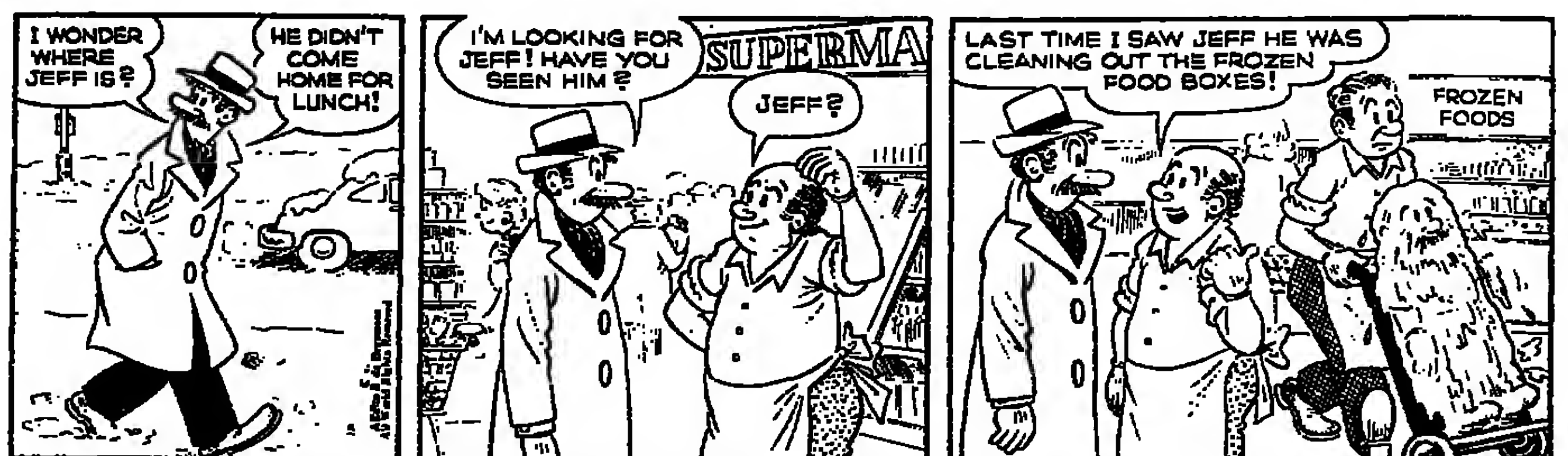
Mattingly (\$2 million) was the AP first baseman, Juan Samuel (\$1.06 million) was at second, Boggs (\$1.65 million) was at third and Alan Trammell (\$1 million) was at shortstop.

Bell (\$1,933,333), Kirby Puckett (\$1.09 million) and Dawson (\$1.85 million) were the outfielders. Bell was the American League MVP in 1987 and Dawson won the award in the National League.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



GOREN BRIDGE

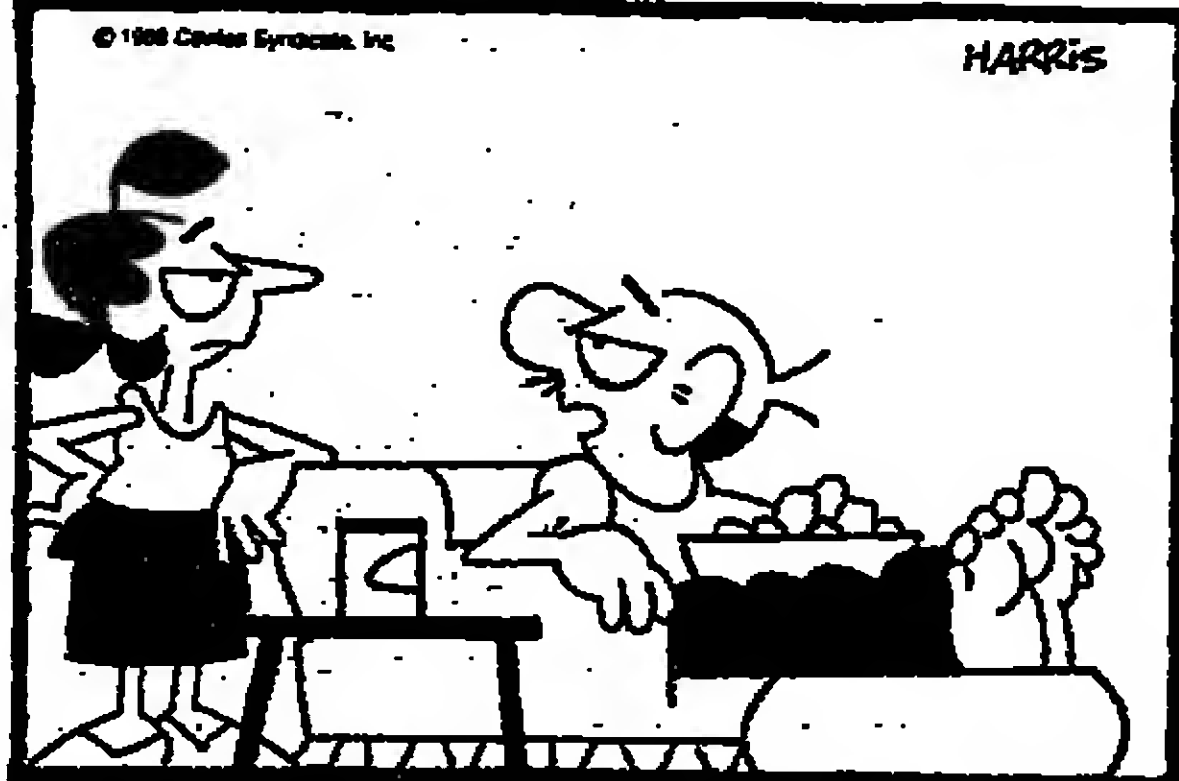
BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 83 ♠ KQJ10652 ♠ 93 ♠ 72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl
What do you bid now?
A.—While you have a self-sufficient seven-card suit, your weak doubler's in the other three suits represent the worst distribution you could hold. With a singleton somewhere, we would have suggested a leap to four hearts. Under the circumstances, though, we feel that three hearts is sufficient.
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ 83 ♠ KJ762 ♠ 954 ♠ 872
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
A.—With a reasonable five-card major and a ruffing value, you have a chance for game. Bid three hearts, for a game. A double between four hearts and three no trump, if he has three-card support, he will raise to game in the suit, add that rates to be a fair contract. If he has only a doubler's heart, he will rebid three no trump, and you will have to pass and pray for some breaks.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ 83 ♠ KJ762 ♠ 954 ♠ 872
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What action do you take?
A.—Regardless of whether your two no trump range is 21-22 or 22-24, we feel it would be cowardly to pass your hand could produce four tricks. Here, however, an 11-trick minor-suit contract cannot be considered for even a moment, so the raise to three no trump is clear.
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 105 ♠ A98 ♠ Q976 ♠ AK5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Despite the lack of a ruffing value, your prime controls make your hand eminently suitable for a spade contract. We feel that all four suits make your hand a maximum, and we would tell partner of this by bidding four clubs to show a concentration of strength in that suit and a willingness to search for slam if partner so desires.
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 105 ♠ A98 ♠ Q976 ♠ AK5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—When partner makes a takeout double of one major, he guarantees support for the other. Therefore, there is no point in introducing your diamond suit into the auction, even though it is a far better than your spades. One spade is the only bid that should enter your mind.

THE BETTER HALF.

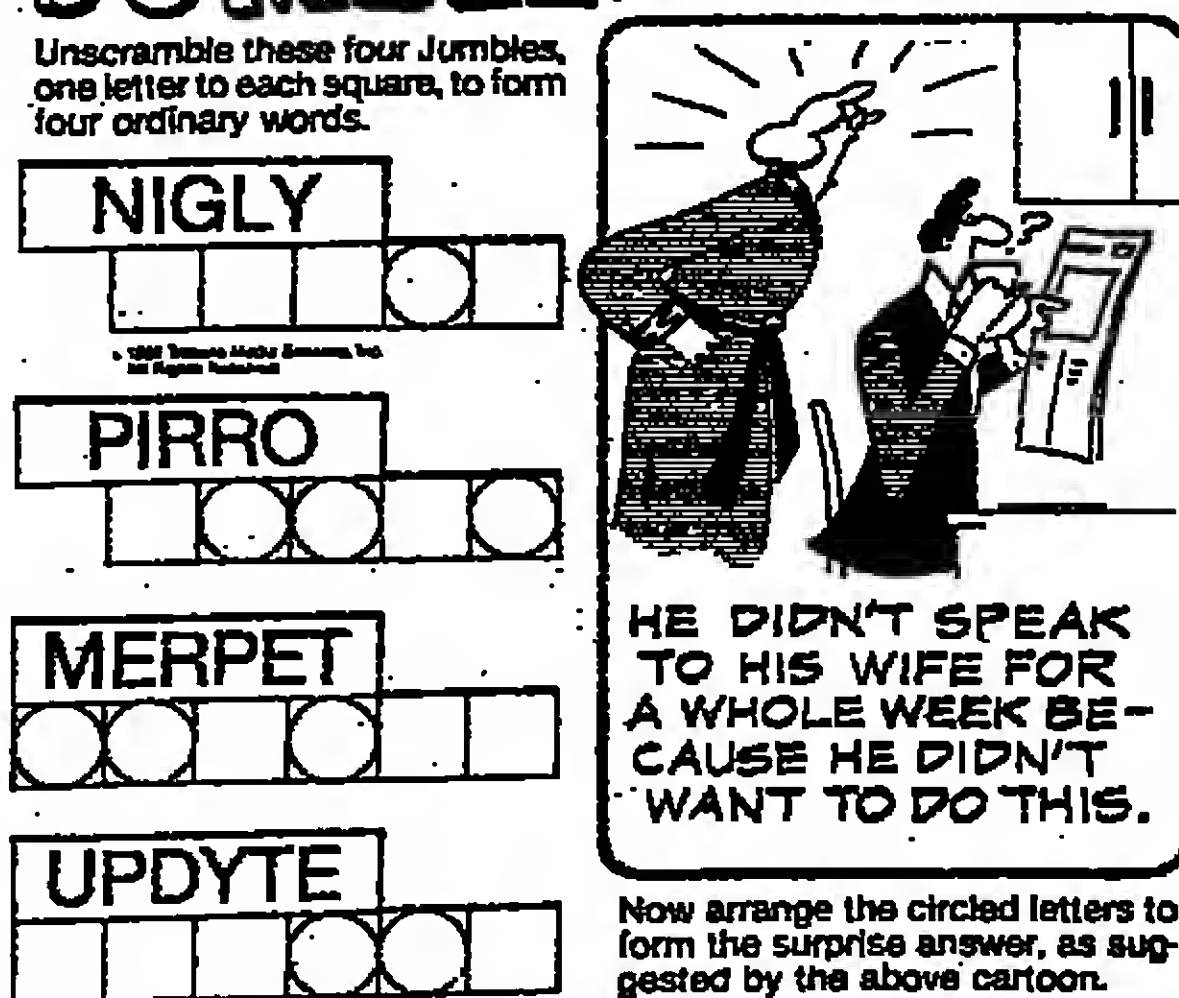
By Harris



"My doctor wants me to eat less fat and salt, so I put two potato chips back in the bag."

JUMBLE.

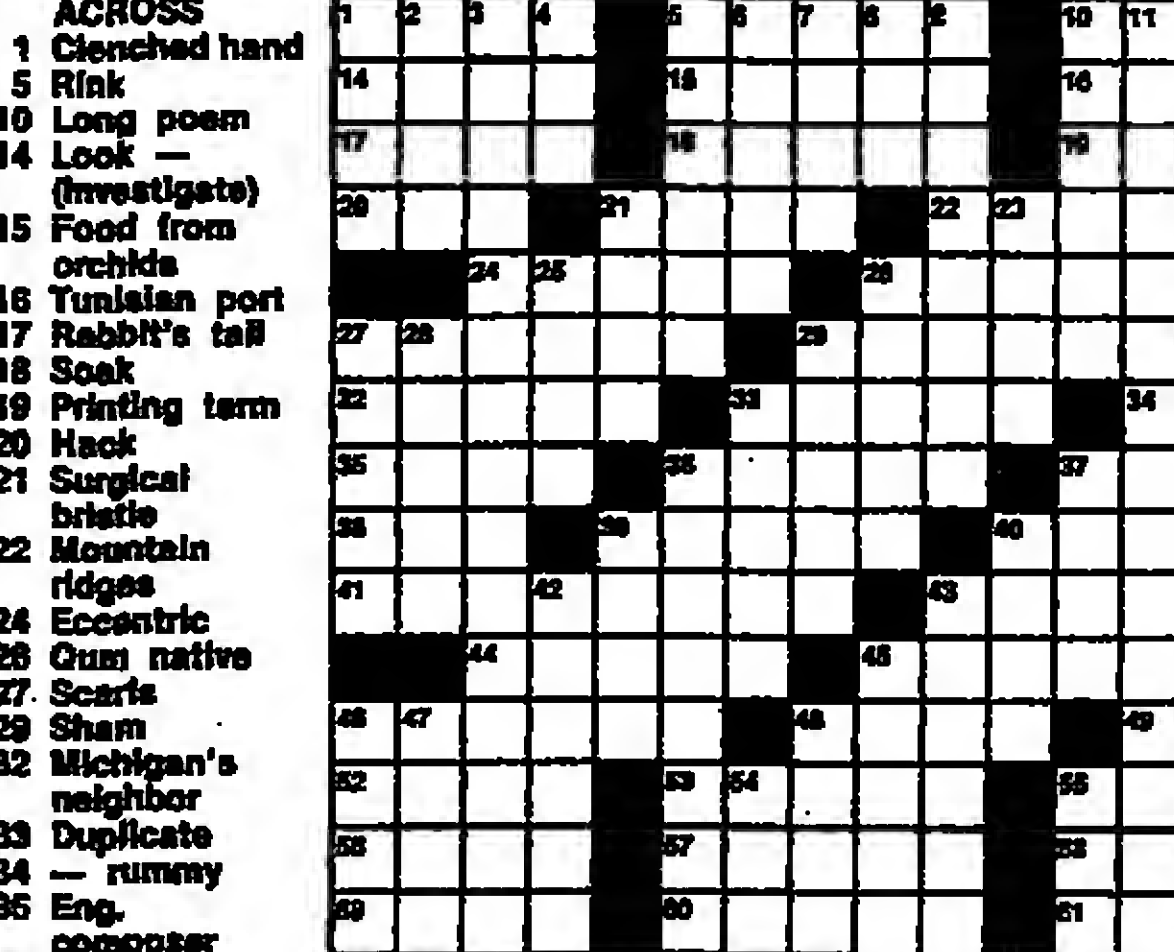
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: _____
(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: WHOSE ALIVE BALSAM LICHEN
Answer: What they couldn't figure out when the X-ray technician introduced her new boyfriend.

THE Daily Crossword

by Florence C. Adler



- Across**
- Cleaved hand
 - Rink
 - Long poem
 - Look
 - Investigate
 - Food from orchids
 - Tunisian port
 - Rabbit's tail
 - Soak
 - Printing term
 - Hack
 - Surgical blade
 - Mountain ridge
 - Eccentric
 - Qum native
 - Scarf
 - Sham
 - Michigan's neighbor
 - Duplicate
 - rummy
 - Eng. composer
 - Denial
 - Blame
 - Creek
 - Lofly nest
 - Store
 - Attended
 - Border
 - Assumed
 - name
 - Obvious
 - Loud noise
 - Maiden
 - Labor
 - Unit of work
 - Border on
 - Claims
 - Adored one
 - Part
 - Thoughts
 - Long easy stride
 - Inspector
 - Shroud
 - US author
- Down**
- Royal treasury
 - Parivien
 - Obelisk
 - Little one
 - Resources
 - Shabby
 - Amused
 - Once called
 - city
 - Obvious
 - Ancient
 - Showing off in
 - way
 - Words of understanding
 - Spitfire
 - women
 - Br. gun
 - Appraise
 - fly plant
 - Argentine oil
 - Air. river
 - City on the Po
 - Tar
 - Scorch
 - Enroll
 - Godness of
 - Indian
 - Tiny
 - Church ritual
 - "I cannot tell"
 - Gum
 - Overcast
 - Prudish
 - Crete
 - Doyle
 - Be brave
 - "It's —!"
 - You
 - Lasso
 - Gale
 - Mountain in
 - Stevenson's union

Journalists, Crusade leaders detained

Noriega troops rampage through opposition rally

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Soldiers firing into the air burst into the capital's leading hotel and detained opposition leaders and foreign journalists after authorities smashed an anti-government demonstration.

The military confiscated the film of foreign television crews at the Marriott Hotel, which has been used for weeks as an informal headquarters by scores of reporters and leaders of the National Civic Crusade.

Opposition spokespeople said nearly 20 of their leaders were detained. Eight foreign journalists, including Richard Cole of the Associated Press, were taken away and held for about three hours.

The Civic Crusade, a leading anti-government coalition, staged the afternoon protest March in an attempt to force the ouster of Panama's military strongman, General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Five leaders of the march were arrested.

The violence Monday coincided with the beginning of the second week of a general strike that has closed down an estimated 90 per cent of Panama's industry and commerce.

Gunmen dressed in civilian clothes but believed to be members of the Defence Force's state security force, and helmeted soldiers carrying assault rifles, swept into the Marriott about three hours after the street demonstration was put down and forced their way into temporary offices of the U.S. television networks NBC, CBS, ABC and CNN, among others.

They ordered employees out of the suites at gunpoint, then searched the rooms, confiscating the networks' film of the earlier demonstration and other equipment, including gas masks and bullet-proof jackets.

A police officer who declined to identify himself said about 40 people were taken away, includ-

ing Civic Crusade members and journalists, both local and foreign.

The eight foreign reporters were released unharmed.

Cole said the reporters were taken to state security headquarters in Panama City, where authorities searched and interrogated them, photocopied their documents and notes and told them to line up facing a wall.

The reporters were transferred to a baseball field where about 40 other people, at least two of whom appeared to have been beaten, were being processed by army officials.

The reporters were then separated from other detainees and Camargo told them their arrest was a mistake. They were set free.

10,000 demonstrate

Earlier Monday, a crowd of about 10,000 cheering, singing anti-government demonstrators marched toward the central business district, ignoring an order to disperse. They had moved about one kilometre when soldiers attacked.

A water cannon sped through the line of march spraying people with a choking mixture of water and chemicals.

Behind the truck charged police and soldiers firing birdshot and beating people with 48-centimetre truncheons.

Reporters saw several people hit by shotgun pellets and at least two people trampled as the crowd fled. There was no official account of injuries or arrests.

Monday's demonstration was one of the largest in months.

Before the demonstration began, Lieutenant-Colonel Virgilio

Mirones of the Panama Defence Forces urged the protesters to disperse, saying: "We don't want to fight with the Panamanian people. We want to fight the United States."

Arias calls for mediation

Meanwhile, in San Jose, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize, Monday called for the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Panama to mediate an end to that nation's severe political and economic crisis.

Arias told a news conference that he and Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez had agreed to ask Monsignor Marco Antonio McGrath to find the "most peaceful (solution) possible" to the troubles in Panama, which borders Costa Rica.

Carlos Andres Perez, former president of Venezuela, was to travel to Panama to personally ask the archbishop to mediate the dispute.

The Spanish leader also said the presidents "are reasonably optimistic that there will be a rapid solution in Panama."

Latin nations denounce intervention

In another development, in Caracas, Venezuela Latin American nations Monday denounced foreign intervention in Panama and called on the U.S. to end economic measures designed to topple Noriega.

A formal regional position on the crisis in Panama will be drawn up in an emergency meeting of the 26-member Latin American Economic System (SELA). The meeting, requested by Panama, began here Monday.

Individual nations, including Mexico and Venezuela, already indicated their opposition to outside interference in Panama's affairs, without specifically mentioning the U.S. by name.

ANC Paris chief gunned down

PARIS (R) — The head of the Paris office of the African National Congress (ANC), the main South African opposition group, was shot dead in Paris Tuesday morning, police said.

ANC officials identified the dead woman as Dulcie September, aged in her 40s.

Police said the woman's bullet-riddled body was found on a fourth-floor landing outside the ANC office in a dilapidated building in Paris's 10th district.

A police inspector on the scene said September was apparently shot between 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) and 10 a.m. as she opened the office.

Police said she was shot five times with a .22 calibre rifle, but declined to speculate on the motives for the killing.

A worker in a neighbouring office found her body and raised the alarm. There was no sign of the killer and neighbours apparently did not hear the five shots.

The ANC, banned since 1960, wages a campaign of bombings and other attacks in opposition to South Africa's policy of apartheid and is based in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

On Monday, South African troops crossed into Botswana and killed four people described by military authorities in Pretoria as ANC "terrorists".

Police cordoned off the Rue des Petites Ecuries, a narrow one-way street near the Gare du Nord railway terminus, to keep reporters away from the scene.

China reports over 600 deaths from hepatitis

PEKING (R) — More than 600 people have died in a hepatitis epidemic in northwest China, a Chinese Health Ministry official said Tuesday.

Yang Baoshen of the infectious Diseases Department said the epidemic was under control but 122,000 people had been infected since it broke out 18 months ago in the vast and sparsely populated region of Xinjiang province.

He confirmed that more than 600 people had died.

Yang identified the virus as hepatitis non-A Non-B and said it spread because of poor sanitation.

A United Nations health expert said there was no specific treatment for this strain of hepatitis. He said it is food- and water-borne and not well understood by medical experts.

Armenian protest sweeps through disputed region

MOSCOW (R) — Workers stayed away from factories and students boycotted classes as thousands of Armenians protested the Kremlin's unwillingness to make a disputed region of the Caucasus part of the Armenian republic.

Pravda, the national party daily, said Monday that the "difficult state of affairs" in Nagorno-Karabakh had damaged the economy of Azerbaijan as a whole.

In Stepanakert, the main city of Nagorno-Karabakh region, young men barred busloads of labourers from getting to work, the government newspaper Izvestia reported Monday.

It said Stepanakert workers stayed away from factories producing silk, shoes and electronic goods, students boycotted the teachers' college and mothers kept their children home from kindergarten.

Losses to the automotive and transport industries were about 4 million rubles (\$2.4 million) in February and March, and the railway industry lost about 200,000 rubles (\$120,000), Pravda said.

The newspaper quoted a railway official in Azerbaijan as saying the situation was "thoroughly bad." The official, Garik Sarkisyan, said freight cars had not been unloaded.

About three-quarters of the 157,000 residents of Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been part of neighbouring Azerbaijan since 1923, are ethnic Armenians.

Sporadic protests have been reported in the region since Feb. 13. The latest labour trouble is said to have begun Wednesday after Moscow rejected Armenian demands to annex the region, about the size of Northern Ireland.

Azeris, the dominant ethnic group in Azerbaijan, also were involved in the trouble, Izvestia said.

Azeris join Armenians

"Ethnic Azeri workers arrived at the entrances to their businesses but ... announced: Unless the Armenians come, we will not work," Izvestia reported.

The manager of Stepanakert's only hotel, the Karabakh, said all but essential services were halted.

"The bread and milk plants are

working. The others are not. Everyone is sitting at home," he said in a telephone conversation.

About 30 per cent of public transport was halted in Stepanakert, a city of about 33,000, the manager said. He described himself as an ethnic Armenian but refused to give his name.

On Monday, Pravda said the success of government-planned improvements for Nagorno-Karabakh hinge on whether the strike ends.

"Any most realistic and well-considered programme cannot be implemented if people do not come to feel a high personal responsibility for the destiny and development of the area and do not get down to work," it said.

The hotel manager said party meetings continued Monday. He predicted the strike would end Tuesday, but Sergei Grigoryants, a Moscow human rights activist who is half Armenian, said it was scheduled to run through Friday.

Yerevan demonstrations

In another development a dissident source Tuesday said police broke up a demonstration in the Armenian capital by about 50 people who demanded freedom for an arrested nationalist leader and criticised the government.

Also Tuesday, an official newspaper said the plan put forth by government and Communist Party leaders to improve social and economic conditions in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region will cost up to \$640 million.

"These millions, which are so necessary now for restructuring, the country is giving to Karabakh," said the newspaper Sovetskaya Kultura. Its front-page article traced unrest in Nagorno-Karabakh to poor social and economic conditions. The paper was referring to Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's proposed economic reforms, known as Perestroika, or restructuring.

Dissident Tamara Grigoryants said she received her information about the Monday evening protest in a telephone conversation with members of a committee promoting Armenian self-determination.

Police did not interfere with an earlier demonstration Monday in

the Armenian capital of Yerevan by more than 100 people, she told the Associated Press by telephone.

In contrast to Stepanakert, where a general strike was reported Monday, workers in Yerevan went to their jobs as usual, according to reports by dissidents and official sources.

A journalist at the state radio and television office in Yerevan, contacted by telephone from Moscow, said workers reported to their jobs as usual Tuesday. "Nothing is happening," said the journalist who refused to give his name.

Grigoryants said the first group of protesters gathered in the main city square at about 6 p.m. Monday and were not bothered by police. The second group appeared later but was dispersed by police, she said.

She said her telephone call was interrupted and she could not find out other details, including whether there were any arrests.

Deukmejian writes Gorbachev

In a related issue, California's governor, the son of Armenian immigrants, has written Gorbachev criticising what he called Moscow's refusal to mend a "historic injustice" committed against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Governor George Deukmejian said he was disappointed by last week's decision by the Politburo to reject Armenian demands that Nagorno-Karabakh be joined to the Armenian republic.

"I am taking the unusual step of writing directly to you to express my deep disappointment in the decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Politburo not to pursue a fair and equitable solution to an historic injustice committed against the Armenian people of the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh," Deukmejian said.

The letter, dated last Friday and made public by the governor's office Monday, praised Gorbachev for taking steps to ensure the safety of Armenians in the Azerbaijani republic, but said the citizens of Karabakh and the Armenian republic had demonstrated a desire for reunification in a peaceful manner.

Gephardt leaves; Jackson surges; Kemp backs Bush

By Laura King
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential contender Jesse Jackson, bolstered by delegates inherited from campaign dropout Richard Gephardt, edged ever-so-narrowly ahead of Michael Dukakis in the nationwide delegate race. But Dukakis was seeking to recoup Tuesday with a win in Connecticut's primary.

Republican rival Bob Dole, meanwhile, was eyeing the exit. Dole, who has all but conceded the nomination, gave a Washington speech Monday that had the sound of a last hurrah. The ABC Broadcasting Network said the Kansas senator would drop out Tuesday, but spokeswoman Mari Maseng said Monday: "He'll tell us when he makes that decision."

Even with Dole still in the race, Vice-President George Bush was overwhelmingly favoured Tuesday in the northeastern state of Connecticut. But he said he didn't want to "project an arrogance."

Dukakis, governor of neighbouring Massachusetts, also was expected to do well in the primary, with 52 delegates at stake. But Jackson has been drawing big, enthusiastic crowds in the state.

Powerful people "There's nothing more powerful in the world than the people whose hope has been raised," he said as he campaigned Monday in Connecticut.

Jackson's stunning weekend win in Michigan's caucuses put Dukakis under mounting pressure. Connecticut's Democratic state chairman, John F. Droney, said that in light of Jackson's gains, Dukakis had to poll better than 50 per cent in the primary to reassert himself.

Dukakis disputed whether he had to land such a knockout punch just to stay in the ring. "Look — a victory is a victory," he said.

Jackson, meanwhile, was drawing admiring comment from both sides of the political aisle Monday. Bush, campaigning in Wisconsin, which holds its primary next week, went out of his way to praise him.

"The man's racking up delegates, and that's how you get elected," the vice president said. "What he has done is very admirable."

Bush's comments came at a

news conference in Milwaukee, where he picked up the endorsement of Congressman Jack Kemp, a former rival. Kemp, who quit the presidential race earlier this month, said he would actively campaign for the vice president.

Gephardt also praised Jackson as he was closing his own candidacy. The Missouri congressman, who was to file Tuesday for reelection to his congressional seat, refrained from making any formal endorsement, but said: "I believe Jesse Jackson can be nominated, and I think he can be elected."

No allis

Gephardt, whose campaign slid downhill after an initial win in Iowa's Democratic caucuses, said he was hampered by a lack of funds. But he added: "I have no allis. We lost, no question about that."

Gephardt's loss was his rivals' gain. Most of his 167 delegates went into the Uncommitted column, but Missouri state party rules mandate that the at-large and public official delegates are redivided among the active candidates when a contender drops out.

That gave Jackson a one-delegate lead. However, more delegates stood to be shifted today.

According to the latest AP count, Jackson had 606.55, Dukakis 605.55, Senator Al Gore 362.8, Senator Paul Simon 168.5

and uncommitted 515.6. Jackson, who leads in the popular vote totals, said he expects to emerge as the Democratic nominee if he wins the most pre-convention delegates.

Among Republicans, Bush was far ahead of either Dole or former television evangelist Pat Robertson, with 778 delegates to Dole's 178 and Robertson's 17.

Even so, Bush said he didn't want to get overconfident.

'Getting my brains kicked'

"One of the best things that happened to me was getting my brains kicked out in Iowa," he said. "Everybody had me dead and buried. We were resurrected."

During a Washington speech Monday, Dole said the Republican Party must "convince more women, more young people, Americans of every colour and ethnic background, to become committed party members."

Democrat Paul Simon campaigned Monday in New York, which holds its primary on April 19.

Simon and two other Democrats — Gore and Jackson — gathered for a forum in New York City Monday night.

The three found little to disagree on. All concurred on the need for improvement in a range of social programmes, a renewed war on drugs and more spending for education, housing and fighting AIDS.

Key Senate panel approves INF treaty

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S.-Soviet arms reduction treaty won a significant boost Monday when the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 18-2 to recommend its approval by the full Senate.

The Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty would eliminate Soviet SS-20 missiles aimed at Europe and Asia along with U.S. cruise and Pershing 2 missiles deployed in Europe.

The treaty would also scrap shorter-range missiles above the 300-mile range and would set up unprecedented verification arrangements.

Reporting on the vote, Committee Chairman Sam Nunn said it reflected a conclusion that on balance the panel believed the positive features of the treaty outweighed its weaknesses.

Although the Armed Services Committee does not have jurisdiction over treaties, its role in national security and its generally hawkish stance gave extra weight to its verdict on the accord.

Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, reported the result of his panel's intensive examination of the treaty to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Parisians can be tested for free

PARIS (AP) — French Minister of Health Michele Barzach Monday inaugurated the capital's first free AIDS testing centre with an open letter urging French doctors to uphold the confidentiality of the tests. Testing "remains voluntary and freely consented to — confidentiality and medical secrecy must be guaranteed," Barzach said in the letter. The centre, located in eastern Paris, is one of a series that will be opened this year in each of France's 95 departments (counties). By the end of the year, the country also will have a nationwide network of 22 centres providing care and education for AIDS.

Racial abuse rages

LONDON (R) — Racial abuse ranging from offensive graffiti to violence is widespread in British schools, according to a survey published Tuesday by the state-funded Commission for Racial Equality (CRE). "Racial harassment is widespread and persistent and in most areas very little is done about it," CRE head Aaron Haynes said in a foreword to the report, compiled after a two-year investigation into the situation of the young generation of Britain's ethnic minorities. It cited the case of one Asian youth who was stabbed to death by a white schoolmate when he attempted to defend fellow Asian pupils against an attack in a Manchester school playground. Verbal taunts, threats and physical injuries often led to poor exam results and even nervous breakdowns among black teenagers, the report said. The perpetrators span the age range from infant to adult and include pupils, students, teachers, lecturers and parents," Haynes wrote.

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Top Philippine rebels captured

MANILA (AP) — Government troops early Tuesday captured two top officials of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, the military said.

Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, commander of security forces in the capital, said party Secretary-General Rafael Baylosis and Central Committee member Benjamin de Vera were arrested in a raid on a hideout in a Manila suburb.

"I am confirming that we have arrested Baylosis and de Vera,

the two top Politburo members, and four others (along) with various voluminous documents," Aguirre told reporters.

He said he had informed President Corazon Aquino of the arrests, and "she is glad about the report."

Aguirre gave no other details of the arrests.

A military report says de Vera heads the party's commission in charge of operations on Mindanao, the country's second largest island. He was captured several

years ago but escaped.

Local radio reports said another Central Committee member, Romulo Kintanar, was among those captured, but this could not immediately be confirmed. Kintanar is the alleged head of the party's military commission and commander of the 24,000-member New People's Army (NPA).

In addition, the Philippine military five regions, including Manila, on "selective red alert" Tuesday in anticipation of possible attacks as the Communist rebel army marked its 19th anniversary.

Armed Forces Spokesman Colonel Oscar Florendo said in a radio interview attacks also were anticipated in northern, central and southern Luzon Island and parts of the Visayas Islands in the central Philippines.

The 24,000-strong NPA traditionally observes its founding anniversary by attacking rural, military and other government installations and executing "enemies of the people."

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NO. TCC 1/88
SUPPLY OF HEAVY MATERIALS FOR LOCAL LINE PLANT PROJECTS

SECOND NOTICE

The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC), Pursuant to Notice of Feb. 11, 1988 for postponement of the tender invitation, now hereby announces Tender No. TCC 1/88 for the supply of Heavy Materials for Local Line Plant Projects such as cables, wooden poles, P.V.C. pipes, manhole covers and dropwire, as part of the Implementation Programme of the "Five Year Development Plan" for the expansion of the Telephone Network in Jordan.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has applied for a loan from the World Bank and intends to use the proceeds of this loan to finance part of the cost of the Projects for which this invitation to bid is issued. As the available World Bank financing is insufficient to cover all the cost of this procurement, bidders are invited to submit in addition to the bid price a Financing Offer, at their option, to finance the contract cost or part of it.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers from the World Bank member countries, Switzerland, and Taiwan-China are invited to participate in this Tender in accordance with the terms, stipulations and technical specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, P.O. Box 1689, Telecommunications Corporation, Amman - Jordan, as of Saturday, April 2, 1988 against a payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred Jordanian Dinars (J.D. 100).

Bids, accompanied by a Bid Security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Tuesday, June